

The AP (2/16) reported that Gulfstream Aerospace will expand its operations at Appleton International Airport, building a new \$40 million service center that is expected to add 200 jobs. WLUK-TV reported that "groundbreaking is scheduled for later this year, with the building opening in mid-2019."

Reuters (2/16) reported that the new facility is expected to begin operations in the second quarter of 2019.

FAA Approves Boeing 737 MAX-9 For Commercial Service.

Reuters (2/16, Banerjee) reported that The Boeing Company "said on Friday the US Federal Aviation Administration had officially certified its 737 MAX-9 aircraft for commercial service." The approval "affirms the airplane's handling, systems and overall performance all comply with required aviation regulations, Boeing said." Boeing is preparing the aircraft for its initial delivery to Lion Air Group.

GA-ASI Submits Stingray UAV For US Navy MQ-25 Contest.

The Aviation International News (2/16, Pocock) reported that General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) revealed in a "surprise announcement" that it had submitted a "new design named Stingray for the US Navy's MQ-25 unmanned tanker requirement." The company had previously indicated it would submit the Sea Avenger variant of its Predator C UAV for the bid. GA-ASI also released an "extensive list of partners in its bid, including Boeing, even though that company has made its own alternative bid for this requirement." Boeing's Autonomous Systems Division, which includes Insitu, is "playing an unspecified role in the GA-ASI bid." In a statement, the company claimed that its offering "exceeds all of the Navy's requirements, including carrier suitability...at the lowest technical and schedule risk."

Airbus To Reduce A380 Production To "Digestible" Six Aircraft Per Year.

FlightGlobal (2/16, Gubisch) reported that Airbus plans to reduce production of its A380 jumbo jet to six aircraft a year by 2020 in a "bid to sustain its flagship programme while keeping losses from the aircraft's production" at a "digestible" level. Airbus plans to delivery 12 A380s this year, and will reduce production to eight aircraft in 2019. Airbus CEO Tom Enders said that the rate of six aircraft represents the "minimum" volume at which production could be maintained with a "reasonable level of efficiency." Enders added, "It doesn't mean we are still making money on that, but the losses that such a low rate would produce are certainly digestible." However, Enders said that this level of production represents "rock bottom, zero and is "clearly not where we want to leave it," and said that he anticipates additional A380 orders from existing or new operators.

Airbus: Initial Details Of Franco-German Fighter To Emerge Later In 2018.

Reuters (2/16, Siebold) reported that the initial details of a "planned Franco-German program to develop a next-generation fighter jet should emerge in the second half of 2018, the head of Airbus's defense unit told Reuters on Friday. = 2 Dirk Hoke "said France and Germany would work out in coming months how to proceed with the program, including whether to bring in an additional partner country, such as Britain."

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Air France Reports Strong Earnings In Fourth Quarter.

The Financial Times (2/16, White, Subscription Publication) reported that Air France-KLM reported strong passenger numbers and load factor in its fourth quarter earnings, but reported losses for the year due to a pension deal.

SPACE

Pence To Tour Kennedy Space Center, Lead National Space Council Meeting In Florida Visit.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (2/19, Leary) reports that Vice President Pence will visit Florida on Tuesday and Wednesday to tour the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station launch facilities, participate in a commercial spaceflight federal reception, and head the second meeting of the National Space Council at NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC). The Wednesday meeting – titled “Moon, Mars, and Worlds Beyond: Winning the Next Frontier” – “will include testimonials from leaders in the civil, commercial, and national security sectors about the importance of the United States’ space enterprise,” according to a White House release. Pence then will tour KSC before departing.

The Washington Examiner (2/19, Giaritelli) reports that the names of the companies participating in the meeting “have not been released and the vice president’s office did not respond to a request for comment.”

Industry Battles Over Hosting Reception For National Space Council. The Washington Post (2/16, Davenport) reported that after it became known that the Commercial Spaceflight Federation – of which SpaceX is a member – would host a reception for the second meeting of the National Space Council, Lockheed Martin and The Boeing Company “complained to the White House, which agreed that they, too, should host the reception.” One industry official said that “we wanted to make sure the entirety of the industry was represented to the council and not just a subset.” The event was intended to take place at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Visitor Complex, but as the event “grew in size,” it is “now being hosted by the Aerospace Industries Association, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Coalition for Deep Space Exploration, as well as the Commercial Spaceflight Federation.”

NASA Certifies SpaceX’s Falcon 9 Rockets For Science Missions.

SPACE (2/19, Foust) reports that NASA has certified the “current version of the SpaceX Falcon 9” to launch selected categories of science missions. NASA “disclosed the certification in its full fiscal year 2019 budget proposal, released Feb. 14, in a section about NASA’s Launch Services Program (LSP).” The budget stated that SpaceX had successfully completed “Category 2” certification for the Falcon 9 “Full Thrust,” which “supports the launch of the NASA Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission in March 2018.” NASA spokesperson Cheryl Warned confirmed Category 2 certification had been received for the rocket. Category 2 certification covers “medium risk” missions, and requires between one to three successful missions to qualify for the missions, “depending on the vehicle’s heritage and level of NASA insight.” The LSP is also conducting “preliminary activities” for certifying the Orbital ATK Antares launch vehicle, according to the documents. The program has also “started certification discussions regarding vehicles still in development, including Blue Origin’s New Glenn, Orbital ATK’s Next General Launch and United Launch Alliance’s Vulcan.”

Launch Of SpaceX Satellite Internet Payload Delayed To Wednesday.

The AP (2/17) reported that a SpaceX satellite launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California has been delayed ~~to~~ "due to the need for more inspections." A Falcon 9 rocket was originally intended to launch a payload of two SpaceX test satellites on Sunday evening, but the launch is now targeted for Wednesday.

CNBC (2/17, Sheetz) reported that the SpaceX Starlink constellation, if fully deployed, would become the largest current satellite network. The largest "existing constellation is built by Iridium, with the company halfway through launching its new 75 Iridium Next satellites to space, set to finish deployment in the next year." ~~The~~ Starlink constellation is currently under consideration by the FCC. = A

The Washington Post (2/16, Fung) reported that the satellites are "part of a years-long plan by chief executive Elon Musk to create a fleet of orbiting devices to blanket the globe in wireless broadband connectivity." The satellites will use radio frequencies "known for their low-lag physical properties," in particular the Ka-, Ku- and V-bands, "with about 4,400 K-band satellites and more than 7,000 V-band satellites." The initial satellites in the network are expected to become operational next year.

Launch Of NASA'S TESS "Planet Hunter" Satellite Delayed.

Florida Today (2/17, Dean) reported that the launch of NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) satellite, which had been scheduled for March 20, has been delayed to no earlier than April 16 after launch provider SpaceX requested more time "for hardware readiness and to meet NASA launch service mission requirements." The mission must launch no later than June. TESS is designed to "discover thousands" of exoplanets, and will "scan an area of sky 350 times larger than that covered by NASA's Kepler and K2 missions that have confirmed roughly 2,500 exoplanets" in a mission lasting at least two years.

Astronauts Complete Repairs To ISS Robotic Arm.

The AP (2/16, Dunn) reported that astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) "wrapped up months of repair work Friday ~~to~~ and completed repairs on the space station's Canadian-built robotic arm, which had "both of its aging mechanical hands replaced on spacewalks conducted in October and January." The final spacewalk was delayed due to complications with the robotic hand installed in January. Ground controllers eventually solved the issues, but additional delays were caused by the arrival of a Russian cargo vessel. NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei and Japanese astronaut Nirishige Kanai "accomplished their main objectives so fast that they had time to tackle extra chores," and were able to end their spacewalk early.

US Air Force, Aerojet Rocketdyne Renegotiating AR1 Agreement.

Space News (2/16, Foust, Subscription Publication) reported that Aerojet Rocketdyne and the US Air Force are working to "revise an agreement to support development of the company's AR1 rocket engine, as questions continue about the engine's long-term future." In a February 14 statement, the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) "confirmed that Aerojet Rocketdyne is seeking to revise the Rocket Propulsion System (RPS) award the company received in 2016 to reduce the fraction of development costs the company has to pay." The award currently requires Aerojet Rocketdyne to assume a third of the costs related to the AR1 engine, and the company is seeking to reduce its share of the costs to one-sixth, according to the SMC. In its response, the SMC said that the "Air Force has gained the necessary approvals to do so, if a mutually beneficial arrangement can be reached with Aerojet

Rocketdyne, = 2 and added that the two sides “working very hard to find closure on a restructured agreement.” The SMC said that any renegotiation would “still require the AR1 to be completed by the end of 2019.”

JSC Director: One-Third Chance Next Astronaut On The Moon May Be A Woman.

The Guardian (UK) (2/17, Davis) reported that NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) Director Ellen Ochoa said that there is at least a one in three chance that the first person to step foot on the moon this century will be a woman. Ochoa explained, “About a third of our active astronauts are women, so chances are at least a third.”

KSC Visitor Center To Display Falcon Heavy Side Core Through Tuesday.

Florida Today (2/19, Kelly) reports that one of the side cores launched on SpaceX’s first Falcon Heavy rocket will be on display at the space shuttle Atlantis exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Visitor Complex through Tuesday.

MANUFACTURING

Global Dividends Reached Record \$1.25T In 2017.

Reuters (2/19, Masoni) reports that the investment firm Janus Henderson announced Monday that “global dividends rose 7.7 percent to an all-time high of \$1.25 trillion (1 trillion euros) last year boosted by a buoyant world economy and rising corporate confidence.” The firm said that the dividend increase – “the strongest since 2014 – was driven by increases in every region and almost every industry with record showings in 11 countries including the United States, Japan, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Netherlands, the investment manager added.” In 2018, Janus Henderson “expects dividends to keep the same 7.7 percent growth rate to reach around \$1.35 trillion, as corporate and economic growth remains strong even in more volatile financial markets.” 0 Director of Global Equity Income Ben Lofthouse is quoted saying, 0 Companies are seeing rising profits and healthy cash flows, and that’s enabling them to fund generous dividends. The record payout last year was almost three-quarters higher than in 2009, and there is more to come.”

STEM EDUCATION

Reaching Out To Young People Helps To Build Interest In “Smart Manufacturing.”

Advanced Manufacturing (2/15) reported that rather than continuing to “bemoan the problem 0 of a lack of skilled workers, “manufacturers are taking a multi-faceted approach to bridge the gap – not only for next year but also for 15 years down the road.” One part of the solution is “reaching out to children as young as nine to build excitement and get the next generation interested in smart manufacturing.” Rockwell Automation Global STEM Ambassador Jay Flores was quoted saying, “At a young age, students are curious. They’re asking questions. They haven’t yet said, ‘I’m not a math person,’ so we want to get them before they have those doubts or they lose that passion for learning and curiosity.” In addition, “manufacturers also are offering scholarships and apprenticeships,” while 0 Companies are providing on-the-job training and education reimbursements to deepen and broaden their skills.”

Separately, [The Hill](#) (2/15, Milliken) reported on a hearing in the House Science, Space and Technology Committee on Thursday that focused on "new programs to help boost the number of science and technology workers in the US." The Hill added that "the Science committee's subcommittee on research and technology heard from educators who highlighted vocational training programs, two-year degrees and community colleges to help fill the gap."

Manufacturing Institute's Lee: US Not Producing Enough Workers To Fill Coming Jobs. [The Hill](#) (2/13, Wilson) reported on the various efforts to combat the "skills gap" in the US workforce, writing that "economists, demographers and political leaders are increasingly concerned that the next generation of workers won't be ready to fill millions of new jobs across the country." It added that "the combination of a generational sea change in the workforce and a technological revolution in the economy is conspiring to create a skills gap that could leave jobs unfilled."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **New Mexico Legislature Passes Bill Increasing Confidentiality For Spaceport America Tenants.**
- **Airlines, Pilots, Air Traffic Controllers Urge Congress To Allow UAV Regulations.**
- **Delta Will Buy Bombardier CSeries Jets This Year.**
- **Richard Branson Admits To Jealousy Of Successful Falcon Heavy Launch.**
- **Federal Reserve: Industrial Production Fell 0.1% In January.**

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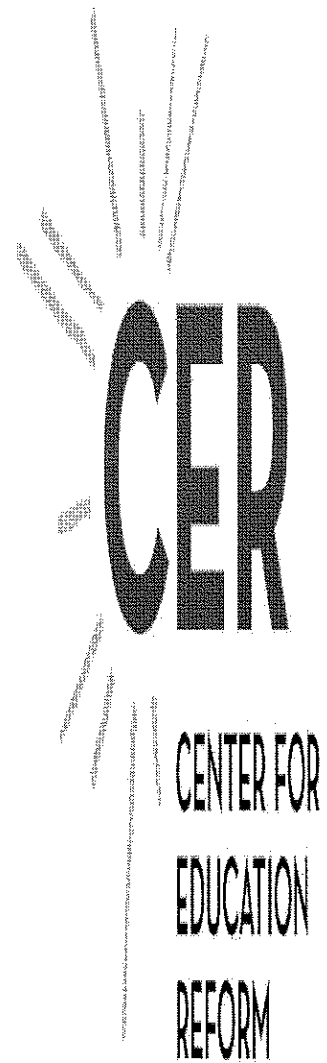
The Aerospace States Association is an association of state lt. governors and state government officials fostering state aerospace growth and STEM workforce development. For more information, please see www.aerostates.org or contact GarelickBell@aerostates.org.

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From: The Center for Education Reform
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 12:44 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Employee Freedom on Trial Monday

MEDIA ADVISORY
Friday, February 22, 2018



CONTACT

Christina Mazzanti, Dir., Communications
christina@edreform.com
(202) 750-0016

Monday: US Supreme Court hears arguments on worker freedom

Janus v. AFSCME decision, whether favorable or not, will have wide-ranging implications for public-sector union employees and education at large

(Washington, D.C.) - On Monday the U.S. Supreme Court hears oral arguments in *Janus v. AFSCME*. The significance of this case cannot be overstated; the decision could potentially restore the freedom of public employees to choose how they want their hard-earned paychecks spent, and might put decisions about voluntary union membership back into the hands of the employees themselves.

According to the Manhattan Institute, the decision can affect 5 million public workers across 22 states including California, Illinois, and New York.

The case results will also have implications for the quality of education we deliver to our children. The teachers unions fight hard to protect mediocrity, even in failing schools, and support policies that keep ineffective teachers in the classroom, a taken-for-granted practice which in turn discourages more quality entrants to the profession.

Union demands for teachers to all behave and comply with fixed rules about how schools are run stifle innovation.

The largest teachers unions in the U.S., the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, are also among the largest political donors of all time, together spending the second most in political donations nationally. Many of the policies and politicians they support, and programs they seek to have implemented prevent children from escaping failing schools and deny parents their due power to determine which education best meets the needs of their children.

Leaders on both sides of the argument will be at the Supreme Court Monday. CER and its leadership will be on site to arrange interviews, and CER Founder & CEO Jeanne Allen will be available for comment. For more, contact Christina Mazzanti at (202) 750-0016 or christina@edreform.com, and for information on location

Monday contact Patrick Korten at (202) 288-4307 or
patrick.korten@kortenmedia.com.

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Founded in 1993, the Center for Education Reform aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans — particularly our youth — ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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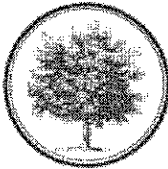
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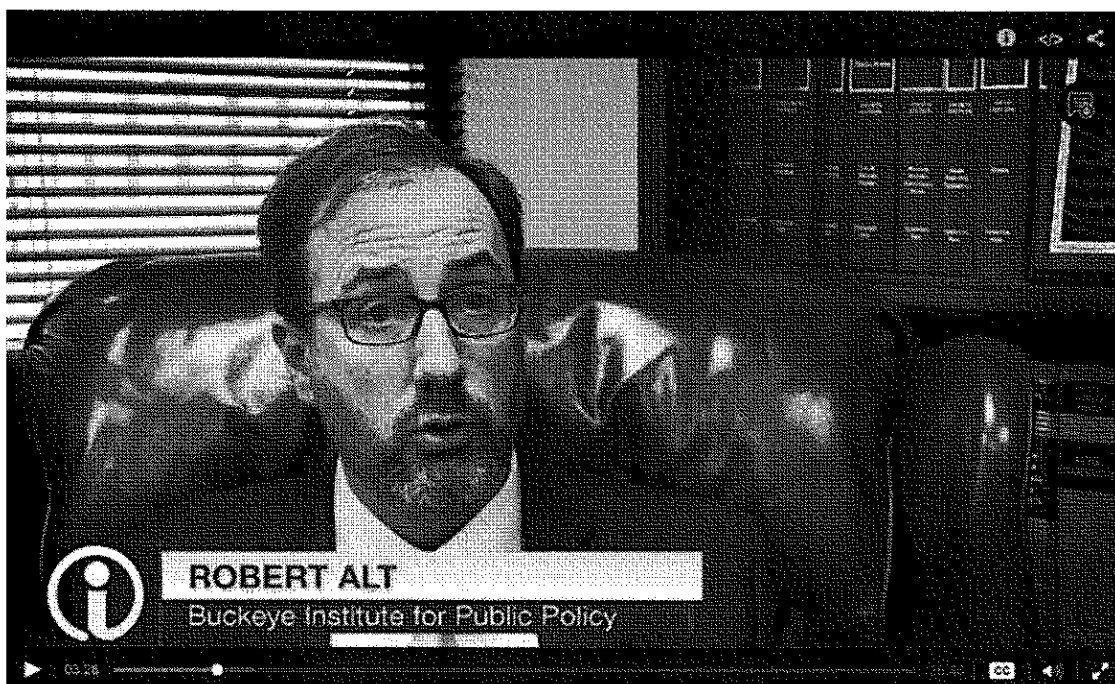
Buckeye's Robert Alt Sat Down with IdeaStream's Ashton Marra to Discuss Janus v. AFSCME

The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO Robert Alt, talked to IdeaStream's Ashton Marra about *Janus v. AFSCME* and the impact it could have on protecting the First Amendment rights of Ohio's public employees.

In the interview, Alt said in regards to public employees being forced to pay agency fees, "You don't have a choice then on how it is that the unions use that money in terms of speech, what they advocate for. That's really the core of this case."

Read and listen to the radio piece at: <http://bit.ly/2EMIE8e>.

Watch the television piece at: <http://bit.ly/2CG11XH> (Segment runs from :56-6:27).

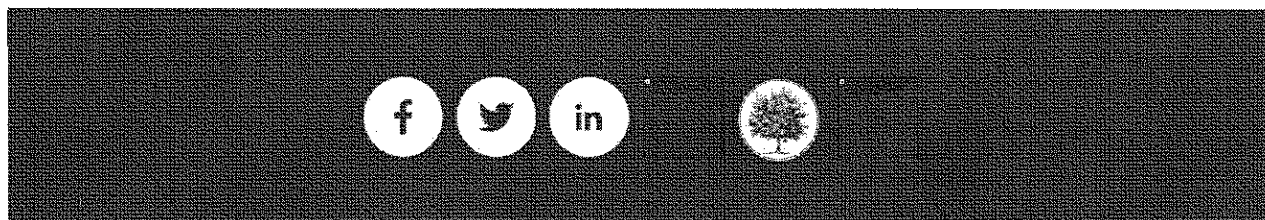


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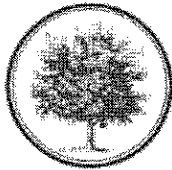
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2018

The Buckeye Institute's Robert Alt: Unions Should Rally Behind the First Amendment Rights of All Public Employees

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Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement regarding the Working People's Day of Action rally in Columbus, Ohio.

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"Today we witnessed the First Amendment in action. Individuals who support unions joined together at a rally to freely express their opinions. But what if instead of rallying and voicing their own opinions, they were forced to pay for the speech of those who oppose

unions or else they would be fired? That would be unfair, not to mention violate the First Amendment. Mark Janus and public employees in many states including Ohio face exactly that kind of predicament.

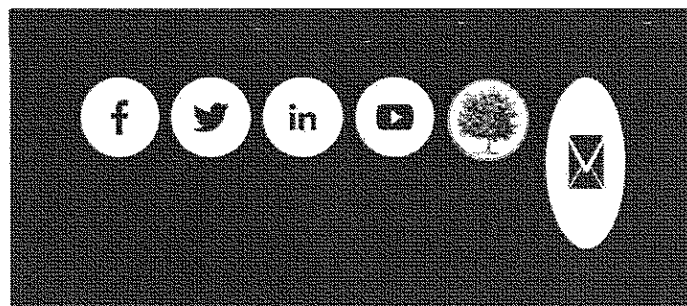
"On Monday, we will once again watch the robust protections of our constitutional system in action as Mr. Janus' case is heard before the Supreme Court of the United States. If Mr. Janus prevails, public employees will no longer be forced to pay for political speech with which they disagree, thus ending the violation of their First Amendment rights.

"While some claim *Janus v. AFSCME* is an attempt to weaken unions, The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief demonstrating that unions can still **thrive without compulsory dues**. What will change if Mr. Janus prevails is that our hard-working public servants, even those who disagree with the unions, will have their First Amendment rights protected and respected. And that is something all of us should rally behind."

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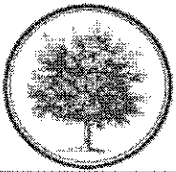
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In a **piece for National Review**, Buckeye's Robert Alt looks at the funding of *Janus v. AFSCME*, saying, "What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case."

NATIONAL REVIEW

The Money Behind *Janus*: It's Déjà vu All Over Again

National Review
By Robert Alt
February 26, 2018

This morning, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. The case asks a similar question to one raised just two years ago in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* - namely whether forcing a public employee to choose between subsidizing a union's political speech or being subject to termination for failure to do so violates the First Amendment.

Coming so soon after *Friedrichs* - a case in which the Court deadlocked 4-4 after the tragic and untimely death of Justice Scalia - *Janus* has a déjà vu quality to it. The sense that we have seen all of this before is nowhere more palpable than in the public arguments marshaled by some of the more liberal elements of the media against Mark Janus's case.

Bereft of sufficient legal arguments to justify the First Amendment violations perpetuated against public servants, left-wing publications have resorted to attacking the messenger. Mark Janus, a child-support specialist for the state of Illinois, is accused of being an agent of big corporations and billionaires. The proof? The public-interest law firms that represent Mr. Janus - namely Liberty Justice Center and the National Right to Work Legal Foundation - are accused of taking donations from charitable foundations that support free-market policy.

Just as in *Friedrichs*, it is perfectly unsurprising that foundations and individuals voluntarily would give to non-profit, public-interest law firms that provide free representation to their clients. Indeed, public-interest firms on both the left and the right regularly rely on charitable donations to carry out their work.

What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case. Why would he pay for the lawyers arguing against him? Because he has no choice. Mark is required to pay agency fees to the union, which are used for chargeable expenses like litigation, or he can be fired. And, of course, he is required to pay for political collective bargaining speech, or he can be fired.

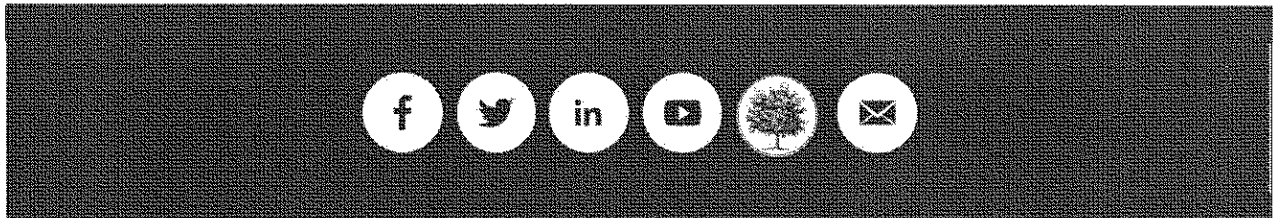
This is the real story of the money behind the *Janus* case-a story of forced contributions for political speech. But the story could have a happy ending. The Supreme Court will hear arguments today in a case that could vindicate the First Amendment rights of millions of Americans like Mark Janus. For Rebecca Friedrichs, for Mark Janus, and for all the workers who are being denied a voice and a choice, let's hope that the second time is the charm.

Robert Alt is the president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute.

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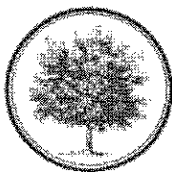
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February 26, 2018

After Attending Oral Arguments in Janus v. AFSCME, Buckeye's Robert Alt Reacts

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement after attending the oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31* at the Supreme Court of the United States.

"Today, Mark Janus, and all hard-working public employees, had their day in court. Mr. Janus's lawsuit has the potential to be one of the most important labor and free speech cases in the past 40 years.

"Justice Kennedy, who is traditionally a swing vote on the Supreme Court, asked very tough questions of the union lawyers, in which he expressed major concerns about the speech at issue being both compelled and political. Given how frequently Justice Kennedy

is in the majority, his questions have to be a cause of concern for those seeking to continue the practice of forcing public servants to pay for union speech with which they may disagree.

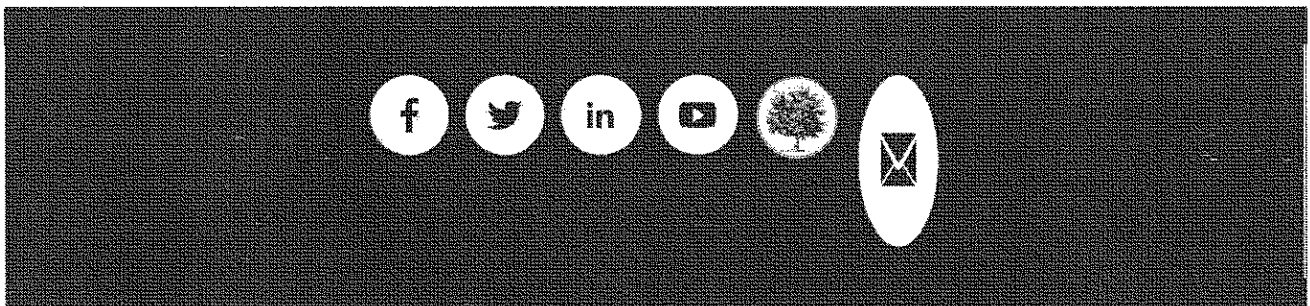
"What Mark, and others before him have done is not easy. Standing up for your rights and the rights of others is rarely an easy thing to do, but it must be done. It is immoral for the government to force hard-working public servants to pay for political speech with which they disagree under the threat of being fired. It is also unconstitutional."

The Buckeye Institute **filed briefs** with the Supreme Court of the United States supporting the free speech rights of public employees like Mr. Janus.

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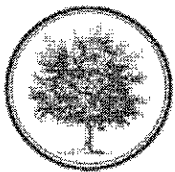
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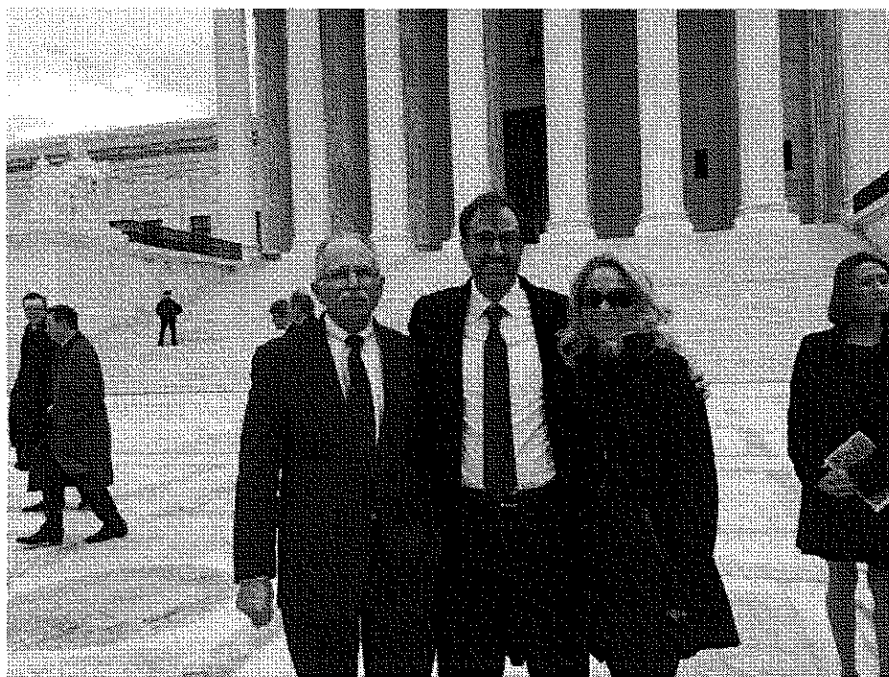
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Buckeye's Robert Alt, Rea Hederman, and Lisa Gates traveled to Washington, DC, for the oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*, and a rally in support of Mark Janus and hard-working public employees this morning.



Robert Alt (center) with Mark Janus and Rebecca Friedrichs outside the U.S. Supreme Court after oral arguments.

Before they left, **Robert commented on the union rally** in Columbus on Saturday, saying:

"While some claim *Janus v. AFSCME* is an attempt to weaken unions, The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief demonstrating that unions can still **thrive without compulsory dues**. What will change if Mr. Janus prevails is that our hard-working public servants, even those who disagree with the unions, will have their First Amendment rights protected and respected. And that is something all of us should rally behind."

Before getting in line at 5:45 a.m. to attend the oral arguments this morning, Robert wrote a **piece for National Review** commenting on the funding of *Janus v. AFSCME*, saying, "What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case."

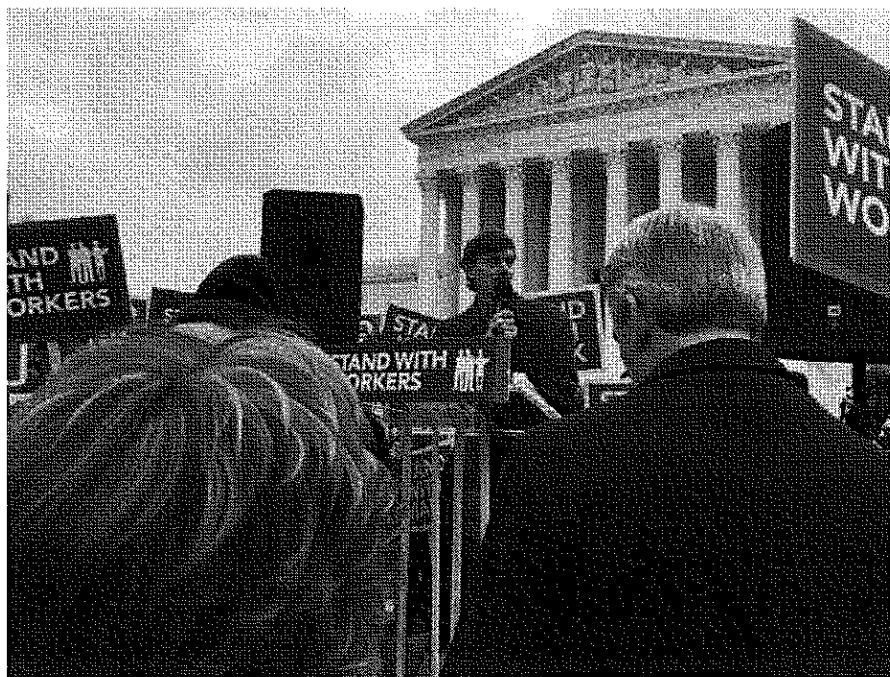
After the oral arguments, Robert **again offered his expert opinion** to the press and his reaction to today's hearing, saying:

"What Mark, and others before him have done is not easy, but it must be done. It is immoral for the government to force hard-working public servants to pay for political speech with which they disagree under the threat of being fired. It is also unconstitutional."



Robert Alt talks with media about the *Janus v. AFSCME* oral arguments and what the case means for public employees.

While Robert was in the courtroom today, Buckeye's Rea Hederman was on the steps of the Supreme Court speaking at the Stand With Mark rally outside the Supreme Court.



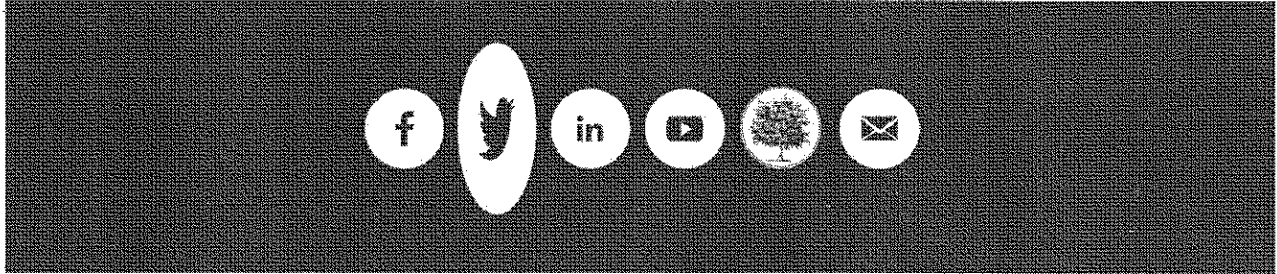
Buckeye's Rea Hederman speaks at the Stand With Mark rally.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

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Tuesday, February 27, 2018



TOP NEWS

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DOJ Ditches Much Of UnitedHealth FCA Suit

The U.S. Department of Justice on Monday abandoned much of a False Claims Act suit targeting UnitedHealth Group Inc. over Medicare Advantage billing practices, marking its second loss in a new area of FCA litigation. [Read more »](#)

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Lawsuit Over Trump's 2-For-1 Regulation Order Tossed

A D.C. federal judge tossed out a complaint Monday from public interest groups fighting President Donald Trump's executive order to repeal two federal regulations for each new one issued, ruling the groups had failed to



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LAW FIRMS

show how the order would harm them. Read more »

Extortion Count Against Ex-Cuomo Aide Cut From Graft Trial

A former top aide to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo couldn't have used his official role to extort money from a developer because the aide was in the private sector when the alleged misconduct took place, a Manhattan federal judge ruled Monday, trimming a charge from an 11-count corruption indictment. Read more »

= 9

= A Judge Keeps Retaliation Suit Against Medical Co. Alive

= 9 A Massachusetts federal judge on Monday kept alive a retaliation suit brought by a former Coloplast Corp. employee who says the medical device company placed her on leave, scaled down her sales portfolio and sued her after she accused the company in a False Claims Act suit of supplying illicit kickbacks. Read more »

DCAA 'Whistleblower' Suspension Legit, 9th Circ. Says

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board correctly found that the Defense Contract Audit Agency had a legitimate reason to discipline a whistleblower who alleged he had been wrongly retaliated against, based on his disrespect toward a supervisor, the Ninth Circuit ruled Monday. Read more »

POLICY & REGULATION

= A

Civilian Hospitals To Train Military Docs Under House Bill

The U.S. Defense Department could soon expand training of its military doctors in civilian trauma centers under a bill passed by the House of Representatives Monday, intent on

Akerman

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Andrews Kurth Kenyon

Berwin Leighton Paisner

Boies Schiller

Broad and Cassel

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Bryan Cave

Burr & Forman

Constantine Cannon

Cooley

Dechert

Dinsmore & Shohl

Earthjustice

Eversheds Sutherland

Faegre Baker

Freese & Goss

Greenberg Traurig

Hill Ward

Hunton & Williams

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Lankler Siffert

Latham & Watkins

Marshall Dennehey

Mintz Levin

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O'Connell & Aronowitz

Older Lundy

Phillips & Cohen LLP

Schulte Roth

Sirote & Permutt

Susman Godfrey

The Barry A. Cohen Legal Team

Verrill Dana

Walden Macht

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Wiley Rein

Womble Bond Dickinson

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keeping military doctors' training up to par.
Read more »

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House Passes Health Care Research, Outreach Bills

The House of Representatives passed a series of bills increasing funding for research on congenital heart disease and sickle cell disease Monday, as well as increasing grants for dental care in rural and other underserved areas. Read more »

ENFORCEMENT

Miss. AG Settles Fourth Prison Bribery Case

Mississippi's attorney general last week announced a fourth settlement springing from nearly a dozen civil racketeering lawsuits filed in state court to claw back money spent on prison contracts allegedly obtained through a bribery scheme that has resulted in several federal convictions. = 9 Read more »

LITIGATION

= 9

Feds Fight Back Against Sikorsky's FCA Suit Dismissal Bid

The federal government hit back Friday at Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.'s bid to cut "overbroad" allegations from a False Claims Act suit accusing the company of overcharging the U.S. Navy for replacement aircraft parts, telling a Wisconsin federal court the complexity of the case was driven by the alleged wrongdoing of Sikorsky itself. Read more »

= 9

= A Libya Says Odebrecht Lost \$97M Construction Arbitration

Libya said it has prevailed in a \$97 million arbitration initiated by Brazilian conglomerate Odebrecht SA after certain infrastructure projects it was working on were suspended by

COMPANIES

Alere Inc.

American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees
Association of Corporate Counsel

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CCS Medical Holdings Inc.

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Coloplast A/S

Communications Workers of
America

Competitive Enterprise Institute

Competitive Power Ventures
Holdings LLC

Derco Aerospace Inc.

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Geo Group Inc.

LexisNexis Group

Lockheed Martin

Lyft Inc.

Major Lindsey & Africa

Natural Resources Defense
Council

Odebrecht SA

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Public Citizen Inc.

Reed Elsevier

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Twilio Inc.

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UnitedHealth Group Inc.

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Zynga Inc.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Army Corps of Engineers

Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention

Defense Contract Audit Agency

Executive Office of the President

the North African nation in 2011, the same year dictator Moammar Gadhafi was ousted in an uprising. [Read more »](#)

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Greenberg Traurig Team Exits Suit By Vet-Led Former Client = 9

A Florida federal judge on Friday allowed a Greenberg Traurig LLP team representing a National Sourcing Inc. subcontractor and other defendants to voluntarily withdraw from a suit in which NSI accuses former shareholders of diverting profits through another entity and accuses the firm of facilitating the scheme. [Read more »](#)

= A

Aviation Co.'s Doc Request Called 'Fishing' In \$4.7M Row

Black Hall LLC and its connected companies responded to a federal court motion by aviation contractor AAL USA Inc. to compel production of tax returns in a \$4.7 million claim, calling it nothing more than a "fishing expedition" and "yet another hyperbolic attempt to obtain one-sided discovery." [Read more »](#)

III. Union Sues To Avoid Repping Non-Members Post-Janus

The Local 150 chapter of the International Union of Operating Engineers is attempting to poke holes in a ruling that the U.S. Supreme Court has not yet made, filing suit last week asking to be exempted from a state statute that mandates unions collectively bargain for and otherwise represent public employees who do not contribute to the union. [Read more »](#)

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Feds Denied Exit Bid In Contractor Suit Over Design Specs

The Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals has denied the government's request for a win on Unit Co.'s claim that it received defective specifications for air-handling and cooling units included in a \$20 million training-

Federal Communications Commission

International Chamber of Commerce

National Railroad Passenger Corporation

Serious Fraud Office

U.S. Army

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board

U.S. Navy

U.S. Supreme Court

= 9

center construction contract, saying questions remain regarding whether the company provided appropriate notice of the issues. = 9
Read more ½ B

PEOPLE

Akerman Adds County Gov't Pro In Miami, Fort Lauderdale

Former Broward County Attorney Joni Armstrong Coffey has joined Akerman LLP as a partner in the firm's Miami and Fort Lauderdale offices, where she will work on land use regulation and litigation as well as government contract work, the firm announced Monday. Read more »

LEGAL INDUSTRY

Feature

4 Essential Tasks New GCs Should Immediately Conquer= A

= 9 The beginning days, weeks and months as a new general counsel or chief legal officer are vital to success. First impressions and chaos control count, and there's a lot of groundwork to cover when settling in to a position, whether it's at a different company or the result of a promotion. Here, Law360 looks at the crucial first steps for every new top lawyer to tackle. Read more »

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Feature

15 Minutes With Twilio's General Counsel

Karyn Smith's journey from BigLaw attorney to general counsel for communications platform Twilio has given her a unique vantage point on the changing media world, from net neutrality to customer confidence to data privacy concerns. Read more »

Law Partners' Hourly Rates Keep Climbing

= 9 The U.S. legal sector saw widespread increases in partner billing rates last year, led by a dominant 8 percent hike in the median rate among the 50 largest law firms, according to a report out Tuesday. [Read more »](#)

Bryan Cave And BLP Approve Transatlantic Merger

St. Louis-headquartered Bryan Cave LLP and U.K.-based Berwin Leighton Paisner have agreed to merge and will launch a new fully integrated transatlantic firm in April, the firms announced on Monday. [Read more »](#)

Ex-Dechert Client Seeks Subpoena For Leaked Letter's Source

A former Dechert LLP client petitioned a California federal court on Friday to subpoena a correspondent for a British paper to discover how he obtained an allegedly damaging letter penned by the firm, claiming after an "acrimonious" split with Dechert, the firm "had an apparent motive to leak the letter." [Read more »](#)

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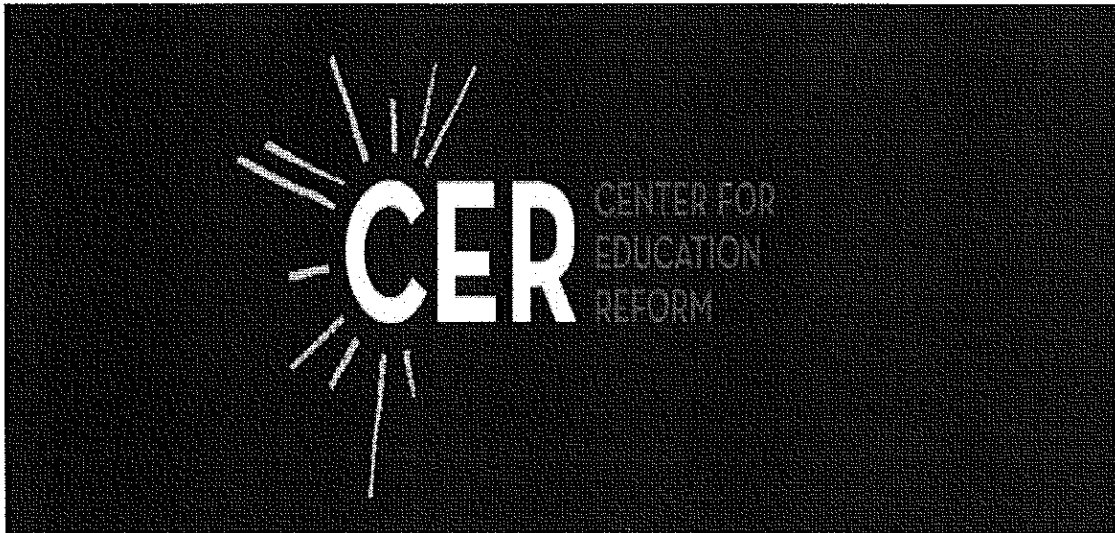
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newswire@

A weekly report on education news and commentary you won't find anywhere else — from the nation's leading voice on education innovation and opportunity.

= A

CAUTION: This newswire contains serious and thought-provoking commentary on teacher pay and teacher strikes.

IN LIGHT OF THE TEACHER STRIKES, we are compelled to bring you some facts, research and data about teacher pay that we hope will enlighten and inform readers and help you avoid simply falling into the trap of saying to yourself, "Oh wow, this is awful that we pay teachers so poorly..." Indeed, we

do pay teachers poorly, and the pay scales and structures of how teachers are hired, rewarded, retained and paid later in retirement are completely broken. This is not an exhaustive analysis, just a smattering of thoughts that should propel you to do your research before jumping to conclusions.

MOST ARE OUTRAGED BY TEACHER PAY LEVELS. How bad are they, really? The answer is, It depends. Confirms the California education blog ED100: "It is difficult to accurately compare teacher pay with private sector pay, because they work differently. In a simple comparison, teacher salaries can seem worse than they are. Private-sector workers' retirement dollars flow through paycheck deductions and build up in a way that is easy to count. They show up on a monthly statement. They accumulate in an account... Teacher pensions, by contrast, don't accumulate. Like a life insurance contract, teacher pensions are a promise of future payments. The 'payout' on this contract varies mostly on how long the beneficiary lives." Incidentally, that payout results in teachers being able to retire and earn nearly their full salary for every year of their lives afterward.

Then there are union dues, which can be another \$600-\$1,000 a year, with no obvious benefit other than to be told why your profession is underpaid and encouraged to strike... This why tens of thousands of teachers oppose these compulsory paycheck fees, teachers like California's Rebecca Friedrichs who took her case to the Supreme Court and Illinois' Mark Janus who is awaiting the High Court's decision on his challenge (which will likely be handed down this June). (For background reading, see this op-ed by CER's CEO, Jeanne Allen, and listen to this podcast with Mark Mix, president of the organization that represents Mark Janus.)

STRIKING FOR THE WRONG THING? The teacher unions won't tell them, but the teachers who are striking across the country aren't going to solve anything even if the legislatures give them an annual raise. Why such a strident statement? Consider the following number: **\$1,000 PER PUPIL**. That's the annual cost of employee pensions. Imagine a school of 600 students

— that's \$600,000! Let's just say half those funds could go to teachers instead of the state pension coffers upfront. There are approximately 26 classroom teachers in a school that size, if we are talking a traditionally organized school. If you took just half of those funds and put them in teachers' salaries in that school, they'd be earning another \$11,000 a year each! Please note that these funds are above and beyond employee contributions, Social Security and taxes.

LET'S TALK MORE ABOUT PENSIONS. As teachers retire they will need to access the pensions they were promised and which the state has paid into. Those funds are paid by the current crop of teachers, to the tune of ten percent of their earnings. Let's take the average pay for an Oklahoma teacher — \$50,000 (which is equivalent to about \$76,000 in Stamford, Connecticut. For all you *New York Times* readers, the cost of living in the Northeast is between 40-60% higher). According to a study from the National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research, "On average across state plans, over ten percent of current teachers' earnings are being set aside to pay for previously accrued pension liabilities. This amounts to a large reduction in real operating spending per student. . . . A significant fraction of the resources allocated toward teacher compensation in current public education budgets *is not being invested in resources to educate today's students at all.*"

WHAT TO DO? Researchers who have been studying this issue for years argue that there are several policy changes that could favor teachers while they work and reduce the pension burden that accumulates on states that are constantly threatened by shifting economic conditions: "(1) transition teachers to defined-contribution retirement plans, (2) transition teachers to cash-balance retirement plans, and (3) tighten the link between funding and benefit formulas within the current defined benefit structure."

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GET SMART on teacher pensions, you need to spend some time here. The solutions guiding what teachers make and what

the state spends, on top of pension costs. There have been dramatic increases in the past ten years in public pension and benefit spending.

TIME TO RETHINK TEACHER PAY. We're rethinking everything else — higher ed, K-12, workforce, school safety — so how about teaching? First, compensation is wildly uneven, being delivered to teachers through schools based on state rules governing experience and pay schedules that often see teachers meeting the peak of their salary years after most other professions, in their 50s! As respected researcher Marguerite Roza writes for the left-leaning Brookings Institution, "...a disproportionate amount of available salary funds is concentrated on teachers at the end of their career."

"District leaders are steering a disproportionate share of the highly constrained public education funds toward a small segment of the teaching force — the group of teachers *least* likely to leave teaching. The National Center for Education Statistics Teacher Follow up Survey reports that while fewer than four percent of teachers with more than 20 years' experience leave before retirement, 13.5 percent of teachers with under five years' experience do. The lower turnover among senior teachers might be a result of the higher salaries, or of proximity to pension earnings — we don't know for sure... But current distribution patterns leave few dollars for pay raises in a teacher's earlier years where turnover is most acute.

"These practices not only result in lower salaries for most teachers, they also channel funds in ways that jeopardize equity across schools and create havoc for district financial stability."

DID YOU KNOW?

"Most public-school teachers' salaries are determined by years in the classroom and degrees held. But a new study from the Manhattan Institute shows that the premium we pay for teacher experience is far greater than is typically acknowledged."

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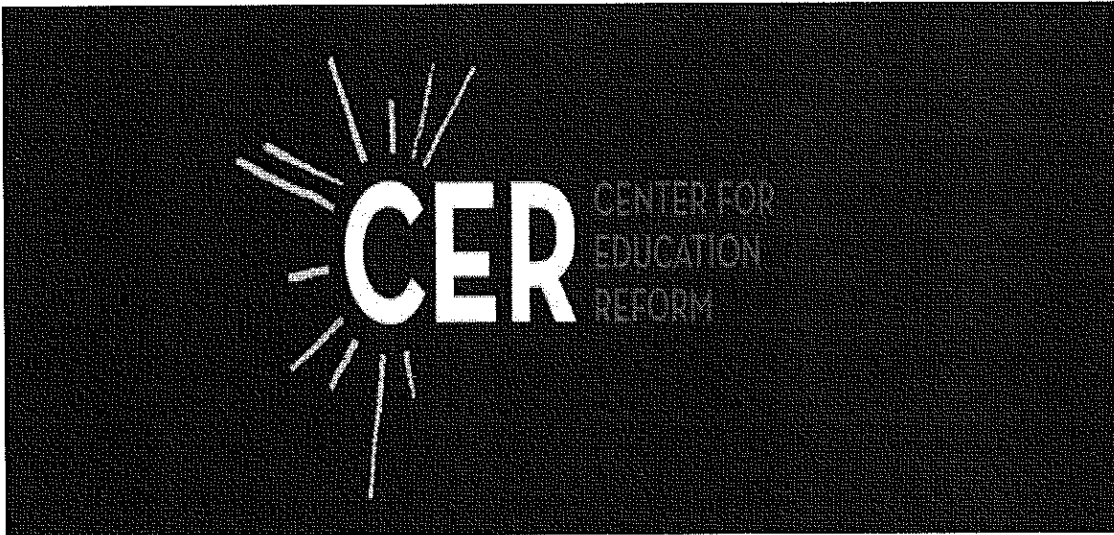
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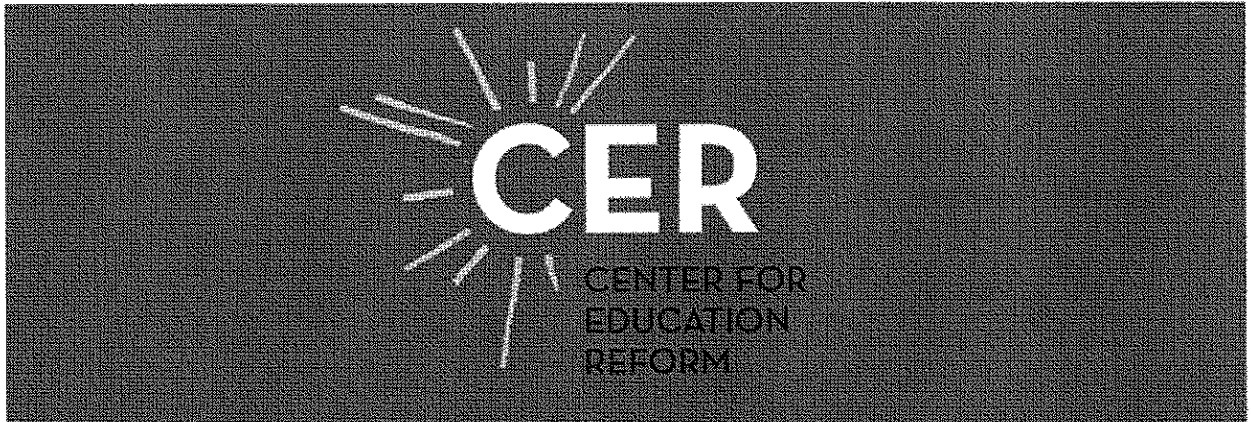
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May 8, 2018

National Charter Schools Week 2018, Day 3:

The UNIONS, and their impact on Teachers

Recognizing charter schools as well as those who enable their progress on this #TeachersDay 2018 must include a recognition of those that stand in the way of yet more progress- the National Education Association and the exceptionally hostile American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

It's no secret these two groups have always opposed and spread falsehoods about charters, working hard to convince teachers that they don't serve kids. That has largely failed, but lately, the rhetoric and attacks by the union bosses have taken a troubling, destructive turn. Their increased hostility can only be a result of one thing – a threat to their power. Charter schools have gained strength and acceptance across the nation, threatening the unions' power, influence, money and membership. NEA membership declined in 27 states last year. The AFT membership fell by 69,000 in 2016. And within a few short weeks, the US Supreme Court will decide in Janus vs AFSCME if the US constitution intended for union fees to be involuntarily extracted from the nation's teachers. (We think our Founders did not).

But rather than evolve and adapt to changes in the 180-year-old factory model system of education, rather than create a new path for teachers that supports their growth over mandating uniformity and lock step acceptance of rules, they have dug in their heels and decided character assassination and anti-charter propaganda is best, even declaring unfathomably that the charter school movement is rooted in racism and in the Jim Crow politics of the South's past!

Over at their palatial building on 16th Street, NW in Washington the NEA has been sending missives out to teachers based on last year's policy statement that – in the union mind and the union mind only - it ~~is~~ "jeopardize[s] student success, undermines public education and harms communities" and thus they must "arm our communities and our educational professionals with the tools and voice we all need to ensure a better future for our youth."

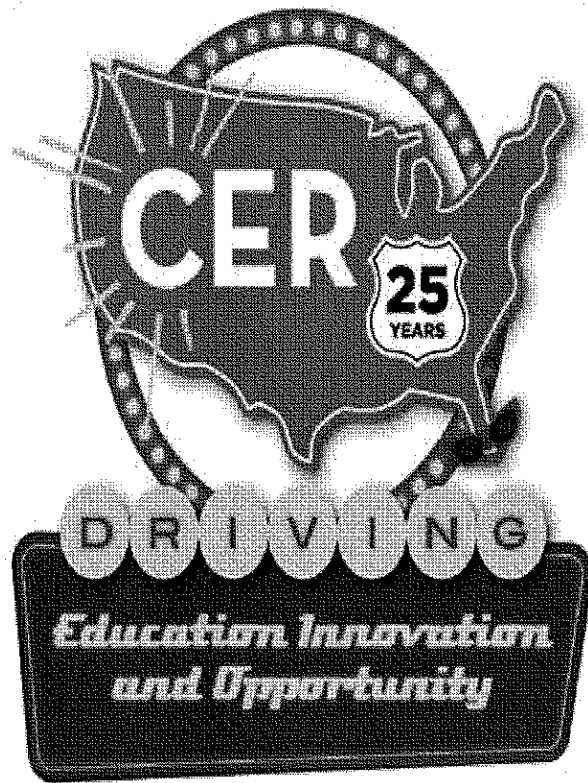
Of course, those tools should be making sure every child gets a great education no matter what the vehicle, but that would never occur to a union who derives its power from mandatory assignment and forced membership.

As absurd and as unfounded as their comments and actions are, they must not go unchallenged. Nor should we ignore that they have tried to tie their school-funding/teacher-pay protests to charters. Make no mistake, these walkouts, sickouts and strikes are intended to build their union, pushing charter school teachers to follow them. Many have called them out in the news and in podcasts with important education leaders.

The good news is that there is help for charter schools and their teachers who want to resist the forced actions of unions to take over these life-saving schools.



The really good news however is that teachers love the autonomy and focus that charters allow them to teach and innovate without being bound by union rules that only hamstring those efforts. That's why well over 90% of charter schools remain non-union and, as a result, retain the freedoms and flexibilities entailed in that independence. As such, charter schools continue to outperform traditional public schools at a rate that has helped drive advances in learning and pedagogy. Charter schools change lives, thanks to the teachers in them. And, today, on Teacher Appreciation day as well as Day 3 of [#CharterSchoolsWeek](#), that's worth celebrating!



Founded in 1993, the Center for Education Reform aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans – particularly our youth – ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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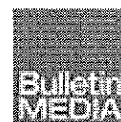
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To: Rep07
Subject: May 14: Judges Uphold DOT Approval For Norwegian Air To Operate In US

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The Aerospace States Association BRIEFING

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Good morning Thomas Patton

May 14, 2018

POLICY NEWS - FEDERAL

Advertisement



Judges Uphold DOT Approval For Norwegian Air To Operate In US.

USA Today (5/11, Jansen) reported that a federal appeals panel "upheld Friday the Transportation Department's approval for Norwegian Air International to serve the US." Four unions representing over 135,000 aviation workers had "challenged the decision by arguing that Norwegian was avoiding labor laws through its unusual corporate structure," but a three-judge panel on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals "ruled that neither federal law nor international agreement allowed the department to reject an airline application, if the carrier satisfied the requirements." The Department of Transportation did so in 2016. The unions have been concerned that Norwegian "represented unfair competition because it could hire crews for

lower wages." Norwegian, meanwhile, "contends it will benefit economies on both sides of the Atlantic by ordering \$18.5 billion of Boeing aircraft and hiring hundreds of US workers."

WTO Ruling In Favor Of US Complaint Against Airbus Expected Within Days.

The Wall Street Journal (5/11, Michaels, Wall, Subscription Publication) reported that the US is expected to win a World Trade Organization (WTO) procedural ruling as part of its dispute over the billions of dollars in European Union (EU) subsidies for Airbus. The US has argued that without \$22 billion in illegal EU subsidies, Airbus would not have

grown into a rival to Boeing. Penalties against Airbus could be as much as a billion dollars or more. The EU has filed a separate case against the US and The Boeing Company citing Pentagon and NASA funding as well as state and local tax breaks, and that case is expected to be addressed in the coming months. The WTO ruling could come as soon as Monday, and may clear the way for the US to impose penalties of several billion dollars annually against the EU

FAA Administrator Speaks At Uber Elevate Summit.

Wired (5/12, Stewart) reported that FAA Acting Administrator Dan Elwell spoke at Uber's annual Elevate Summit in Los Angeles, where the ride-sharing company presented its vision of future intra-urban drone transportation networks, or "flying taxis." Among the "nearly 1,000 attendees" from various organizations and institutions, the FAA was "unlike the other participants, who were all gung-ho about the possibility of launching passenger-stuffed drones off the top of tall buildings." Instead, the FAA "stressed that compared to smaller drones, the path to regulating human flight is likely to be different, harder, and longer." Elwell said the agency will focus on safety in regulating the transport of humans via electric VTOL aircraft proposed by Uber. Elwell stated, "You have more commitment, top to bottom," at the federal agencies "to bring these technologies to viable life than I've ever seen."

Re/code (5/11, Bhuiyan) reported that Uber "wants to begin testing its flying cars in 2020 – that's two years away – and have a network up and running in some places by 2023." While "federal regulators said that timeline may not be 'too ambitious'...they wouldn't yet commit to it because they have 'zero tolerance' for any degradations in safety."

Bloomberg News (5/11, Newcomer) reported that Uber has partnered with five air taxi manufacturers, including one owned by The Boeing Company. The consensus among the companies "building flying cars was that Uber's 2023 limited commercialization deadline is aggressive, but possible."

Fox News (5/11, Salazar) reported Uber is also partnering with NASA and is "supplying information to the agency so that it can simulate the flight of a small passenger-carrying aircraft within the airspace of Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, according to two recent statements by NASA." This Urban Air Mobility project will work on "a safe and efficient air transportation system," NASA stated, "where everything from small package delivery drones to passenger-carrying air taxis operate over populated areas, from small towns to the largest cities."

Bolton: US May Sanction European Companies That Continue To Do Business In Iran.

The Daily Mail (UK) (5/13, Chambers) reports that National Security Advisor John Bolton said on CNN's "State of the Union" that "it's possible" the Trump administration may impose sanctions on European companies that do not cease doing business with Iran by the end of the year. Companies in certain sectors have between 90 days to six months to "wind down operations in Iran or run the risk of facing stiff penalties now that the United States is no longer a party to an international accord that lifted sanctions on Tehran." In a statement, Rolls-Royce confirmed that it is examining "potential implications" of the US decision, adding that it "conducts business in all countries, including Iran, in accordance with all relevant UK, EU or other national sanctions and export control regulations."

AVIATION

Iran Awaits Word From Airbus On \$20 Billion Aircraft Deal.

Reuters (5/11, Hafezi) reported that Iran expects to hear from Airbus in the “coming days about the fate of an order for 100 planes that looks to have been wrecked by the United States’ decision to reinstate sanctions on the Islamic Republic.” The deal announced in December 2016 was potentially worth up to \$20 billion in list prices, but only three aircraft of the 100 have been delivered so far. The US has announced its intention to revoke the export license required to sell commercial aircraft to Iran, and although “Airbus is a European firm, its aircraft use US components and technology.” According to a senior adviser to Iranian Roads and Urban Development Minister Asghar Fakhrieh-Kashan, “Airbus will announce its decision in the coming days.” The loss of US export permits and “confirmation that Iran has not paid a deposit, as previously reported by Reuters, could force Airbus to tell investors the deal cannot go through.”

Air Italy Takes Delivery Of Boeing 737 Max As Part Of Plan To Compete With Alitalia.

USA Today (5/12, Mutzabaugh) reported that Air Italy took delivery of its first Boeing 737 Max this past Friday, the “first of 20 Air Italy has on order, part of an broader plan to grow its fleet by 50 aircraft by 2022.” The 737 Max will be used for “shorter routes within Italy and Europe.” Air Italy is undertaking an “aggressive growth plan” linked to Qatar Airways’ purchase of a 49 percent stake in the carrier last year. Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker “has made little secret that he hopes grow Air Italy into the nation’s top airline as Alitalia struggles through yet another bankruptcy reorganization.” Air Italy plans to make Milan Malpensa its main hub and “plans to quadruple its fleet and passenger numbers by 2022.” Air Italy also plans to maintain a “reinforced base” at Rome’s Fiumicino airport for long-haul routes.

US Marine Corps To Take Delivery Of First Operational CH-53K This Week.

FlightGlobal (5/12, Reim) reported that the US Marine Corps is scheduled to “take delivery of its first production version of the CH-53K King Stallion from Sikorsky early next week.” The heavy-lift helicopter will be received at Marine Corps Air Station New River in North Carolina, where the “USMC said it plans to put the aircraft through its Supportability Test Plan by conducting a logistics assessment on the maintenance, sustainment and overall support of the King Stallion.”

Spanish Union Ends Talks With Ryanair.

Reuters (5/11, Humphries) reported that the Spanish pilots’ union SEPLA has “broken off talks with Ryanair” over a union recognition agreement, and plans to file a lawsuit against the carrier over Spanish contracts. Ryanair recognized unions for the first time in December, but “while it has come to agreements in Britain and Italy, it is still working towards deals with unions in other major centers such as Ireland and Spain.”

London Southend Airport Trials System To Detect “Rogue” UAV Users.

BBC News Online (UK) (5/13) reports that London Southend Airport has conducted successful trials to “track and identify ‘rogue’ drone users” that have caused “an increased safety risk with up to four sightings in London airspace a week.” The new surveillance technology can identify UAVs further away from airports, and according to an

airport spokeswoman, it also "identifies exactly where the operator is located." The system includes "two airfield sensors which offer 360-degree coverage up to 4km" in any weather condition.

UAVs Seen As "Major Threat" To Sports Stadiums. The Washington Post (5/10, Laris) reported that major league sports teams "are increasingly anxious about the more than one million drones government officials estimate are already in use," and are "asking Congress to give local law enforcement permission to seize or reroute drones flying over stadiums." The Department of Defense was "freed over the past two years, in certain cases, from prohibitions against intercepting electronic communications and 'sabotaging' aircraft" in order to address the potential threat from UAVs. Also, the Trump Administration has "proposed giving the departments of Homeland Security and Justice similar powers." Allowing UAVs to be "interrupted raises safety issues," according to some safety experts, and there are concerns that "stray signals from anti-drone defenses could interfere with cellphones or radios, possibly affecting heart monitors or airplane navigation equipment."

AFRL Showcases Automated Aircraft Maintenance System.

ExecutiveGov (5/11, Martin) reported that the US Air Force Research Laboratory's (AFRL) Manufacturing Technologies Division has "showcased a new a robotic system for aircraft maintenance." The Advanced Automation for Agile Aerospace Applications (A5) robot uses sensor feedback to "perform factory work in localized environments, Wright-Patterson AF Base said Thursday." The 22,000 pound robot is expected to reduce aircraft coating removal times by as much as 50 percent. According to AFRL Automation and Robotics Program Manager Rick Meyers, the A5 is "mounted on a mobile platform that allows it to move about an aircraft." The A5 is nearing the end of Phase I development, and is "scheduled to undergo additional testing on a C-17 aircraft in fall this year."

Companies Raise Funds To Design Bottle For Alcoholic Beverages In Space.

The Daily Mail (UK) (5/11, Cahillane) reported that Saber Astronautics Australia and 4 Pines Brewing are raising money to fund a new bottle design "based on fuel tanks to defy challenges of drinking in zero gravity" and allow astronauts to "enjoy [an] alcoholic beverage in space." According to the companies' Indiegogo posting, they hope to make a = 2bottle so astronauts and future space tourists can drink in space just as we do on land." According to an email, the developers are working on "two bottle designs which have had several rounds of industrial design with prototypes" and are scheduled for testing aboard parabolic flights early next year.

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SPACE

SpaceX Successfully Launches, Lands Falcon 9 Block 5.

Reuters (5/11, Rouletter) reported that the upgraded Block 5 version of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket "made its debut launch on Friday from Florida's Cape Canaveral carrying a communications satellite for Bangladesh into orbit." The Block 5 featuring around "100 upgrades for greater power, safety and reusability than its Block-4 predecessor" launched at 4:14 p.m. EDT from Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. The Falcon 9's first stage booster landed on an unmanned platform offshore around nine minutes after liftoff, and the Bangladeshi government's Bangabandhu-1 communications satellite successfully entered its intended orbit 33 minutes after launch. Friday's launch was SpaceX's ninth of the year. There had been five such missions at the same point in 2017, according to SpaceX CEO Elon Musk. The Block 5 booster is designed to be "reused at least 10 times with minimal refurbishment between flights, allowing more frequent launches at lower cost – a key to the SpaceX business model." SpaceX has safely landed 24 boosters and reflown 11 of them. The Block 5 Falcon 9 is expected to be SpaceX's first vehicle to "satisfy NASA's standards for its Commercial Crew Program" to carry astronauts to the ISS. NASA requires seven successful flights to attain certification for a manned mission. The rocket also will be used to launch "US Air Force global positioning satellites and other high-value, military and national security payloads."

Spaceflight Now (5/11), Bloomberg News (5/11), USA Today (5/11), and The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (5/11) hosted video of the launch.

SpaceX Plans To Fly Around 300 Block 5 Missions Before Retiring Falcon 9. SPACE (5/11, Wall) reported that during a prelaunch call with reporters, Musk said that Block 5 first stages may be able to fly as many as 100 times with some refurbishment. According to Musk, the rocket's first and second stage Merlin engines have around eight and five percent more thrust, respectively, than their Block 4 counterparts. Musk added that the new Falcon 9 is "really better in every way than the Block 4," and has been designed to be "the most reliable rocket ever built." The Block 5 will be SpaceX's last version of the Falcon 9, which is eventually to be discontinued in favor of the Big Falcon Rocket (BFR) still in development. SpaceX is likely to produce between 30 to 50 Falcon 9 Block 5s, "which together will fly on the order of 300 missions before they're entirely superseded by the BFR, Musk said during yesterday's call."

CNBC (5/11, Sheetz) reported Musk stated on the prelaunch call that SpaceX is "on track to be double our launch rate last year."

NASA Continues To Call For Delay In Decadal Survey.

Space News (5/11, Foust, Subscription Publication) reported that due to uncertainty over the status of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), NASA continues to "suggest that the next decadal survey for astrophysics be postponed, a move opposed by many astronomers." The decadal survey identifies "priorities in astrophysics research and prioritizes both ground-based and space-based

observatories to carry out that work." The JWST and WFIRST are identified by the survey as flagship missions for the next decade, and NASA officials including Associate Administrator for Science Thomas Zurbuchen "are concerned that the next decadal survey committee may not be able to effectively prioritize missions in the next decade due to uncertainties in the status of JWST and WFIRST." A two-year delay of the study, they argue, could help mitigate these concerns. The next decadal survey, Astro2020, is scheduled to begin around the end of this year with the "selection of a chair of the committee that leads the study," with the report completed and released by late 2020. JWST is now scheduled to launch in May 2020, while the White House has proposed canceling the WFIRST mission. However, many astronomers "have no desire to delay Astro2020," and a delay would have to be coordinated with supporting agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Experts Consider Potential For First "Space Trillionaire."

Aerospace America (5/11, Risen) reported on discussions at last week's Humans to Mars Summit in Washington, DC centered on space entrepreneurship. During the event, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) said, "I believe the first trillionaire will be made in space." While attendees and presenters "seemed optimistic about growth" of the space industry, some were "less sure about Cruz's trillionaire prediction." Star Century Partners founding partner Rick Tumlinson estimated that initial Mars exploration efforts will not be overly profitable due to the planet's distance from Earth. Low gravity manufacturing, Tumlinson pointed out, could be carried out on the lunar surface or a space station much closer to Earth. He also said, "As far as I've seen there is no business plan that (addresses) being able to go to Mars and do something of financial value." Explore Mars co-founder Chris Carberry sees the "immediate incentive to visit Mars" as exploration versus profit, and suggests that "we don't quite see what the market would be for Mars, but it's the inspirational driver, the science driver, the future-of-humanity driver." Still, Carberry believes that there "will be a space trillionaire, it's just a matter of whether someone gets there first making money the traditional way on Earth."

NASA Releases New Image Of Saturn's Rings, Moons.

SPACE (5/11) reported that NASA has released a new image of Saturn's rings and its moons Mimas, Janus, and Tethys taken by the Cassini spacecraft in 2006. The photograph shows Saturn's "arcing limb, its razor-thin rings (seen edge on) and three of Saturn's many moons" from a distance of 1.7 million miles.

ULA Selects Aerojet Rocketdyne Engines For Vulcan Centaur's Upper Stage.

The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (5/11, Tribou) reported that United Launch Alliance (ULA) has selected Aerojet Rocketdyne's RL10 upper-stage engines for its Vulcan Centaur rocket over engines offered by competitor Blue Origin. ULA has not selected a supplier for Vulcan's first stage engines, and "Blue Origin and Aerojet Rocketdyne are still competing for that." According to ULA President and CEO Tory Bruno, ULA could "not be more pleased to have selected the proven and reliable RL10 to power our Vulcan Centaur upper stage." Orbital ATK also selected Aerojet Rocketdyne engines for the Omega rocket's upper stage.

Space News (5/11, Foust, Subscription Publication) reported that the RL10C-X variant to be used on the Vulcan incorporates "improvements, like additive manufacturing of engine components, to improve its quality and affordability." An agreement reached between ULA and Aerojet "covers the delivery of engines over the next decade," and the companies pledged to jointly invest in engine development. Aerojet President and CEO Eileen Drake is

paraphrased as stating that the company was able to reduce the part content of a "copper thrust chamber for the RL10 by 70 percent through the use of additive manufacturing."

MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing Day 2018 To Focus On Skilled Worker Shortage.

In a press release, the Manufacturing Institute (5/11) reported that "Manufacturing Day (MFG) 2018 will occur on October 5 with expected record-breaking turnout." The article added that this year, "MFG Day will focus on one of the biggest problems manufacturers face – a shortage of skilled workers." The release also said that "MFG Day goes a long way to inspire the next generation to pursue rewarding manufacturing careers." The release quoted Manufacturing Institute Executive Director Carolyn Lee saying, "Manufacturing offers many promising career options for the next generation – often without the financial burdens of college debt – and these well-paying jobs are in an industry that is modern, optimistic and growing. Yet, too often, the very talented younger Americans who could make the most of these careers either don't know they exist or have the wrong idea about what a career in modern manufacturing might look like." Lee added, "That's why we organize MFG Day events across the country – to inspire the next generation of manufacturers so that they can gain access to the fulfilling careers they deserve, and to help manufacturers fill the more than 391,000 open jobs in manufacturing today."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **FAA UAV Pilot Program To Run Around Two-And-A-Half Years.**
- **Uber CEO "Reasonably Confident" Company Can Begin Air Taxi Flights By 2023.**
- **Technical Issues Delay SpaceX Falcon 9 Block 5 Launch.**
- **GE Aviation Opens New \$200M Manufacturing Facility In Alabama.**
- **ED Civil Rights Data Show Minority-Majority High Schools Have Fewer STEM Courses.**

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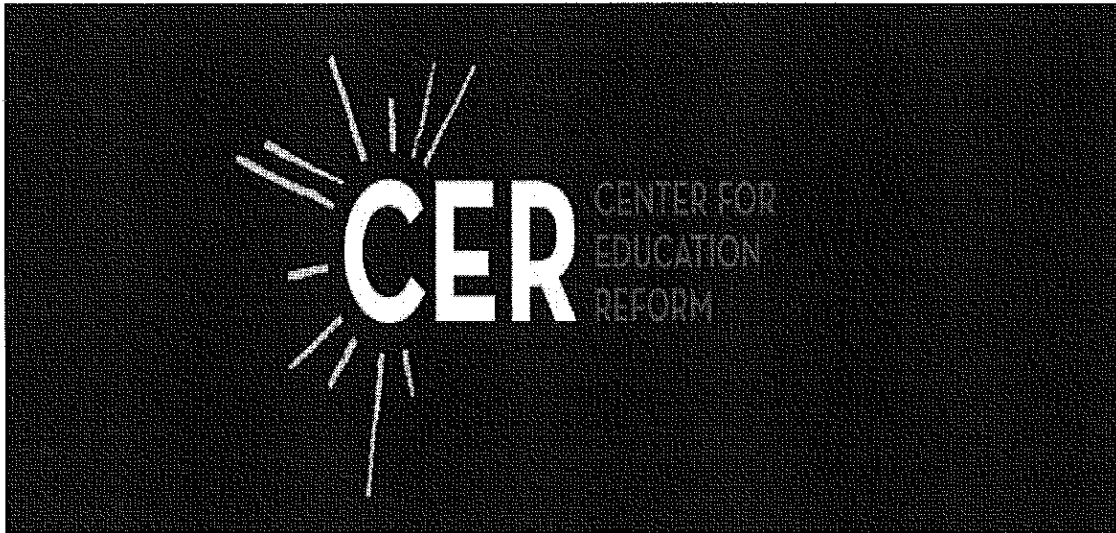
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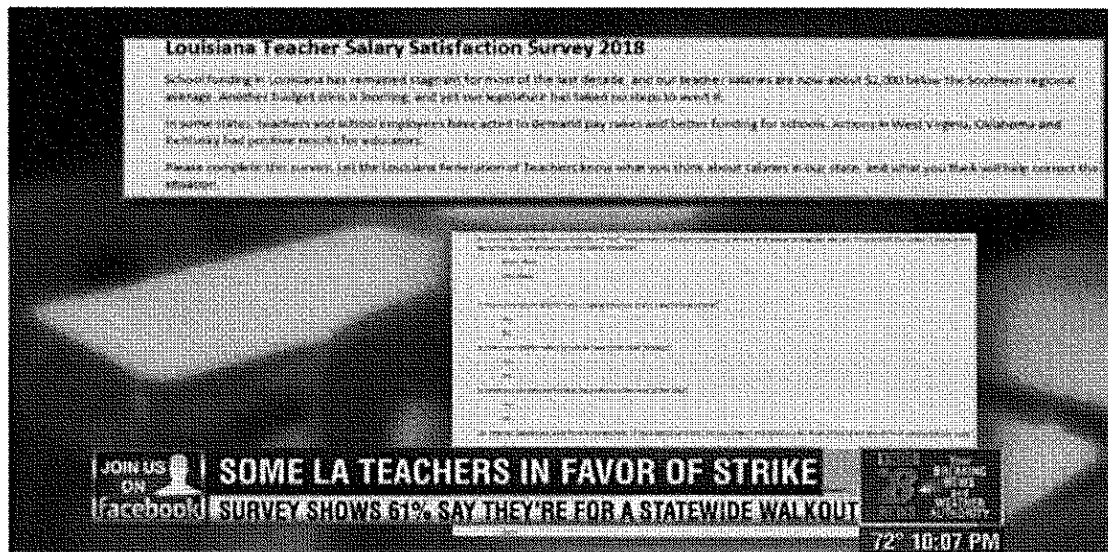
PRIMARY DAY. It's a great reminder of what's at stake, and a time for all to exercise their right to vote, not to mention their responsibility to know what it is they are voting for. A little [civics knowledge](#) courtesy of the Bill of Rights foundation might help you or your class, now and in the future to understand what it is we can all achieve if we focus on the issues. Let's start (and end) with education, a core function of any Governor. Today Texas, Georgia and Arkansas will nominate candidates for Governor to elect in November. In all, 36 states and 3 territories will elect state execs this year. Get to know what you should be asking and thinking now. CER's handy-dandy voter's

guide Education 50 is chock full of information to guide you and will be an up-to-date analysis of all major state races for November's final contests.

MORE UNION DISSENT. This time in South Carolina. Dubbed a "mobilization", the rally at least took place on a Saturday when the livelihood of the children was not at stake. Want more money and benefits? Teachers should get up to speed on what's really preventing that from happening. (Hint: It's not education reform).

BAIT & SWITCH. The media have been hoodwinked clearly by catchy surveys conducted by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers claiming a majority of teachers support their strikes and demonstrations. Take a look at this loaded question they used to stir the pot. Again, teachers should ask themselves, what has the union done lately to ensure that school spending reaches the classroom, to reduce their dues, to reduce pension costs, ensure that salaries not be topped off at the end of a teacher's career, and that greatness is rewarded, while mediocrity is not? The reality is that most teachers don't know how they are paid, or why.

New survey shows nearly 4,000 Louisiana teachers would strike, quit for higher pay



WHEN THEY CAN'T WIN THEY SUE. Repeated lawsuits initiated by the unions against the tiny Washington State charter school law are going to prevent more students like Jalen Johnson, an 11th-grader at Summit Sierra charter school in Seattle, from succeeding. Johnson told the crowd at a pro-charter rally that the commitment of his teachers helped turn him from an average middle-school student who had little thought of attending college to a thriving high-school junior who hopes to study urban planning at the University of California at Berkeley. "This is how every school should be." That's the same theme in Georgia in a news report about charter school graduates. "Public school choice, in the form of successful, innovative public charter schools, helps struggling children thrive and graduate."

SPEAKING OF GRADUATES, Michigan's charter schools are forcing some who have long used flawed data to condemn Detroit charters to eat their words. Turns out that with struggle comes progress (as one of our friends would say). A dollar spent by a Detroit charter yields 2.5x lifetime earnings, according new a new report by the Mackinac Center. Indeed 8 of the 10 top high schools in Detroit for college enrollment were charter schools. Despite the

good news, the Gubernatorial Democratic frontrunner in Michigan announced earlier this month his "war on charter schools." Shri Thanedar is campaigning on a plan to ban most Michigan charter schools. His competitor Gretchen Whitmer is following his lead.

ILLINOIS CHOICES UNDER ATTACK, TOO. Political efforts motivated by stiff teacher union pressure threaten the elimination of the successful Invest in Kids Act program, despite its popularity and necessity. Empower Illinois received 24,000 applications as soon as its scholarship program went live, causing its website to crash, and is up to 50,000. The state tax credit program is decried by the teachers' union because it's a policy that supports educational alternatives. So as the unions work to pull teachers out of school they are also trying to stop kids from going to schools that meet their needs. Go figure.

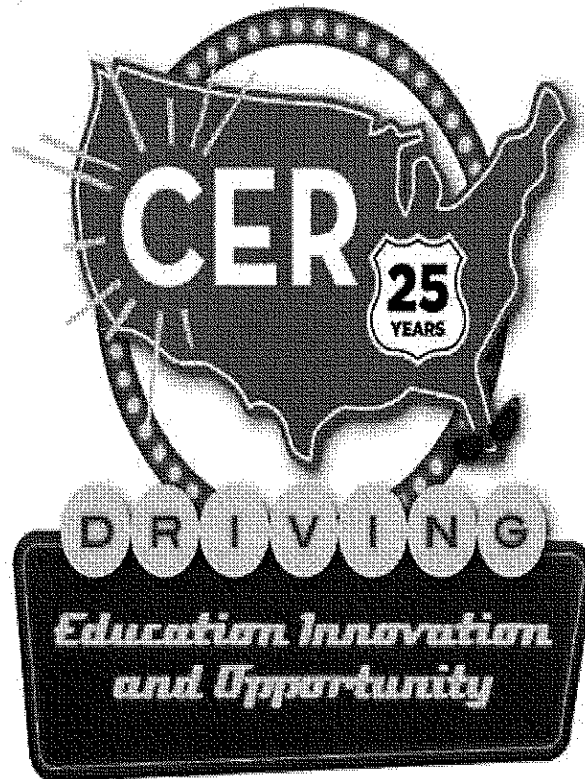
FLORIDA DISTRICTS FIGHT equality for kids while they deny charter public schools their equal right to property tax money.

DESPITE FAILURE & SAFETY ISSUES, the head of the National Education Association (NEA) is galloping into Kentucky to the fight proposed state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools.

LET US PRAY. THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED SCOTUS *JANUS v.*

***AFSCME* RULING** in late June could mean a seismic shift for teachers' unions. With the strong possibility of a ruling Mark Janus' favor, releasing non-union teachers from mandatory fees, the nation's largest teachers' union, the National Teachers Association (NEA) has announced a projected loss of 300,000 members over two years and accordingly, a proposed annual budget reduction of \$50 million. For more details and analysis on the case and how its outcome will affect all educators and students, listen to this Monday's Reality Check with Jeanne Allen with guest Colin Sharkey, executive vice president of the Association of American Educators.

Check out this week's [Reality Check w/Jeanne Allen](#) for an interview with North Carolina charter school leaders about the strikes and their prescription for success.

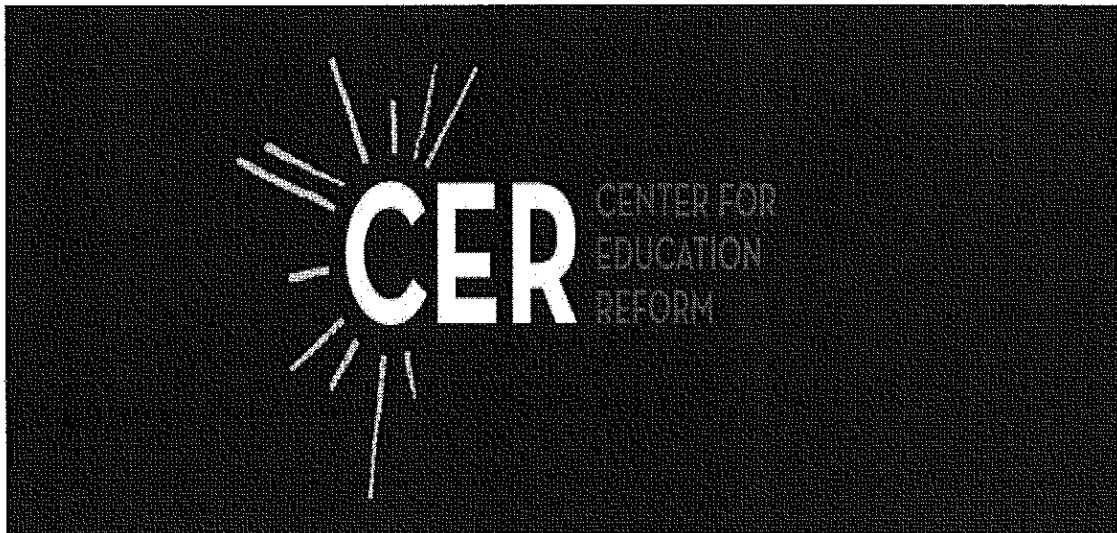


Founded in 1993, [the Center for Education Reform](#) aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans – particularly our youth – ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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GUBERNATORIAL RACES PUT ED FRONT-AND-CENTER. Who are the education innovation and opportunity candidates? With [36 gubernatorial races](#) at stake, and CER's ED50 ramping up to serve you in the generals, your CER NEWSWIRE will highlight key races & what opportunity voters should know about each candidate from now until the final election day.

CALIFORNIA. In the Golden state, the front runner's gold is clearly the teachers unions, who endorsed Lt. Gov and former San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom because he says stuff like edreforms such as charters are an attack on public education. Antonio Villaraigosa believes in choice through charter

schools, which earned him the endorsement of California charter advocates and some of their biggest financial backers.

But the State's two leading Republican candidates are polling ahead of Villaraigosa. Businessman John Cox is pretty silent on education opportunity, and Assemblyman Travis Allen is a fierce advocate of educational choice. They are polling at 18 and 16 percent respectively ahead of Villaraigosa's 9%.

GEORGIA. The winner of May 22nd= 2s Democratic primary, Stacey Abrams says educational choice is "diversion of funds to private schools" that "[undermine] our government's responsibility." (Hmmm, you mean the responsibility to educate kids which they can't do in most states and communities, Stacey?)

The Republicans will run off Lt. Governor Casey Cagle and Secretary of State Brian Kemp in July both of whom have supported education opportunity. Kemp also supports military vouchers.

UNIONS GEAR UP (BRACE) FOR JANUS. The U.S. Supreme Court will deliver a decision in Janus v. AFSME sometime in June, and true to form, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is focused on how to mitigate membership losses that will be inevitable if the Court rules in favor of Janus. AFT says it will lose members (aww, darn) and is buying up advertising to scare people that this decision is terminal... for... exactly who? Imagine if those funds were given back to the teachers who can't make enough money in the prime of their lives thanks to A) the policies they lobby for and B) the dues they extract.

GET THE DETAILS with the latest Reality Check w/Jeanne Allen with guest Colin Sharkey, EVP of the Association of American Teachers, the largest non-union professional association for teachers. Colin is uniquely qualified to comment on the case and its implications for the public sector and the teaching profession. Mark Mix, the head of the National Right to Work

Legal Defense Fund, also talks about the case he helped to take all the way to the Supreme Court.

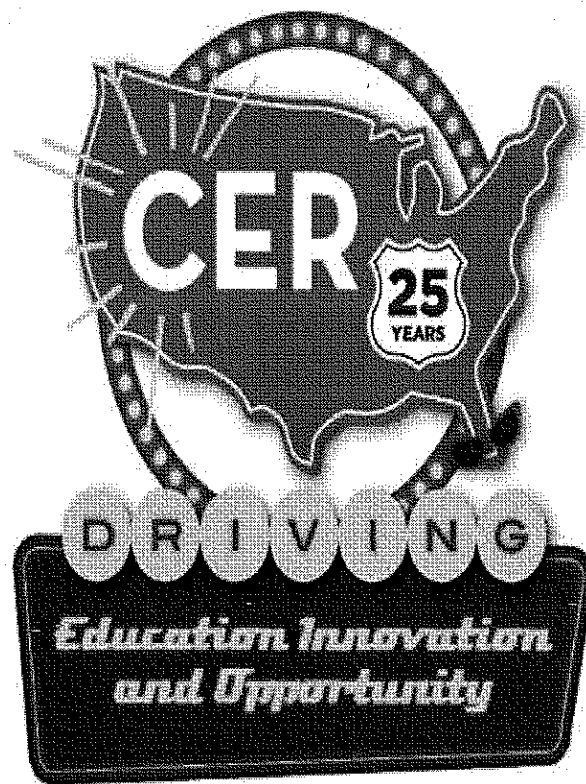
EXCEL IN ED PLAYBOOK. Shout out to the Foundation for Excellence in Education for producing the first-ever playbook for state policymakers defining the case for strengthening career and technical pathways through cross-sector partnerships. Let's strive to help learners at all levels, particularly those ill-served by traditional schooling all these years.

Building Cross-Sector Partnerships to Support Career and Technical Education Pathways



STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING IN NORTH CAROLINA? Could a new funding model mean greater impact, and more money going to teachers students and classrooms in NC? The NC budget includes a 6-7% pay increase for teachers and principals, performance pay provisions for additional bonuses, increases for all education related growth and even includes a provision allowing property tax dollars to fund public schools or public charter schools directly outside district lines. Consider the impact of this on teachers, who recently took to the streets to protest what they get paid. If money flows to schools, the potential for more and better funding opportunities for teachers is enormous. Think about it!

JOIN US! Recognized for their accomplishments in ensuring the creation and advancement of opportunities and innovation across the education landscape, the 8 honorees for CER's 25th Anniversary are change agents, innovators, and leaders of breakthrough options for learners at all levels. They will receive their awards and recognition for their unique accomplishments at the Center's Silver Anniversary Summit & Celebration, October, 25 – 26, 2018 in Miami, Florida, "The Road to Innovation for ONE America." Sit back and watch who's driving opportunity & innovation!

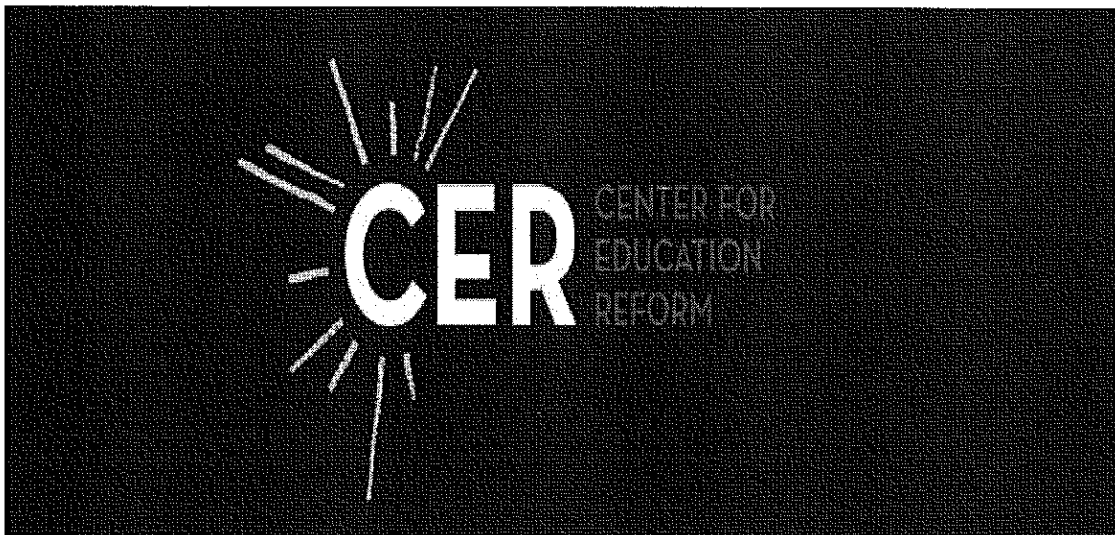


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POLITICS AS UNUSUAL. "A subterranean divide among Democrats between backers of teachers unions and those of charter schools and other education innovations is helping shape key gubernatorial primaries..." so reports the AP. Charter schools and edreform have long been backburner issues in political campaigns, but in some places a tipping point has been reached. In Colorado, for example, tension has been building over education for months; activists tried to forbid the group Democrats for Education Reform, which backs candidates who support innovations like charter schools and evaluations, from

using the party's name in its title. Some of this strife is being driven the teachers unions. [Read more here.](#)

PERSONALITY POLITICS. The *NY Times* [posits](#) that because Ed Secretary Betsy DeVos is allegedly such a polarizing figure her support for charter schools actually does more harm to the charter movement than good. "One survey of views on charter schools found... ..the president and his education secretary are so disliked by liberals that some will automatically reject whatever they endorse." While that isn't surprising, it is unfortunate and has spawned a narrative of negativity that is doing a terrible disservice to charters specifically and ed opportunities and innovations generally.

NEW YORK POLITICS. A *NY Post* [editorial](#) lays it on the line for NY Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza. If he truly wants to mend fences with the city's high-performing charter schools and their leaders, he can start by granting long-languishing space requests and also end an injustice that NY1 exposed this week: discrimination by the Committee on Special Education 1 against kids who attend Success Academy (it's been slow-walking requests for Success Academy students, and even unfairly denying services). [Continued...](#)

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA STAND UP. Last week *The Las Vegas Review-Journal* ran a piece about how Nevada's Clark County School District had created a new marketing position to sell the district's schools to parents and slow the exodus of student to charter schools. We responded with a letter to the editor, which reads in part "The [district's] goal should not be 'How do we convince families not to leave?' It should be 'How do we provide learning experiences and results that make them want to stay?'" Read the letter in its entirety [here](#).

AND WHILE WE WE'RE AT IT. How do we say this politely....? We've just about had it Valerie Strauss' attempts at journalism, and with the people she quotes and whose opinions she offers up as "proof" that public education is

under attack by dark forces who want to “privatize” schools. So we fired off a letter to *The Washington Post* too.

CONFIRMATION. One of the comments you often hear from parents who choose to send their children to charter, or private schools is the simple desire to ensure their kids are safe – which, sadly, is often not the case in the schools that many children attend. But are those desires met? According to an analysis of the second-year results of the federal evaluation of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (the federally funded scholarship program that allows low-income families in D.C. to use public education dollars to cover private-school tuition for their kids) by *The Hill*, the answer is a resounding yes! Get the facts.

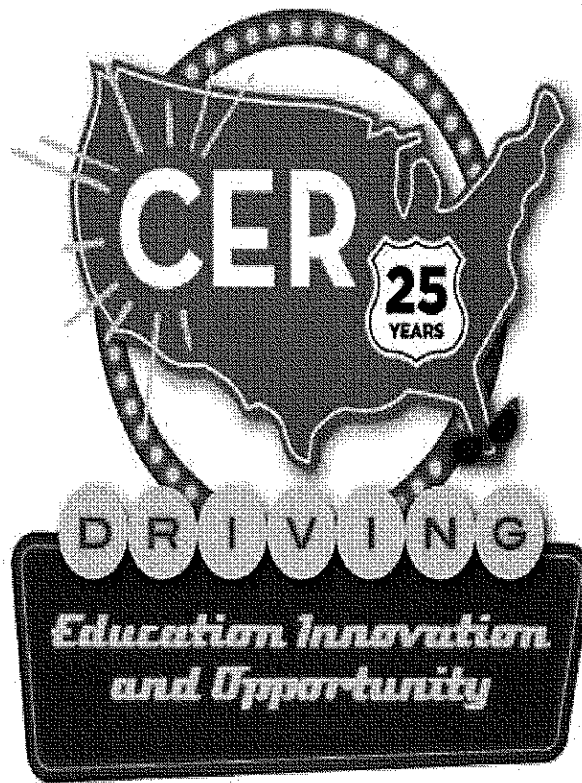
GOOD NEWS? Later this month the Baltimore School Board will consider applications for six new charter schools. Unfortunately, the same school board has consistently cut its budget for the city’s existing 34 charter schools (which serve about 20 percent of Charm City’s 80,600 public school students). Adding insult to injury, there’s a new funding formula that has charter schools paying the district millions of dollars for services previously covered by the school system. Nicole Harris-Crest, ED of the Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools, said the cuts and new rules made for a pretty tough environment for starting a charter school. “But,” she added, “it adds additional people to the movement to fight for equitable funding.” It’s time the state legislature or the courts step in to make the playing field more level for charters and traditional public schools alike.

ON CHEERIER NOTES. Check out these two stories on charter schools. First the CBS Morning News story on BASIS Independent Silicon Valley, which has captured the top five spots on U.S. News and World Report’s list of the best high schools and where students are required to take at least seven AP courses, beginning as early as eighth grade (*and some take as many as 20*). And do yourself a favor by reading *“A change of schools changed everything”* by valedictorian of the 2018 graduating class of PACE Career

Academy in Allenstown, NH. It's a great personal testament to all the things that are the foundation of innovations and opportunities that are charter schools.

TIME FOR A REALITY CHECK. In a lifetime of amassing experiences and diverse avenues of success, Bill Walton, founder and chairman of the private equity firm Rappahannock Ventures, has been driven by one defining theme, "I've always been interested in the barriers to change." A lifelong learner, Bill is an entrepreneur, education reformer, supporter of the arts, and is a feature film and documentary producer. Bill and his wife Sarah developed an entire French and Spanish language curriculum, Language Odyssey. Since then, he has been passionate in the belief that, "A free market in education rather than government-run schools is the ideal system for every child to flourish in." Listen online at <https://www.edreform.com/realitycheck/>.

TICK-TOCK. The clock's winding down, and decisions are being handed down, as the end of this session of the Supreme Court draws to a close. Before it's all over there'll be a decision on Janus v. AFSCME which, if it goes as anticipated (in favor of Janus) will have a huge impact on the power of the teacher's union. For all the latest news, and up-to-the-minute comment, visit edreform.com or go to <https://standwithworkers.org/>.



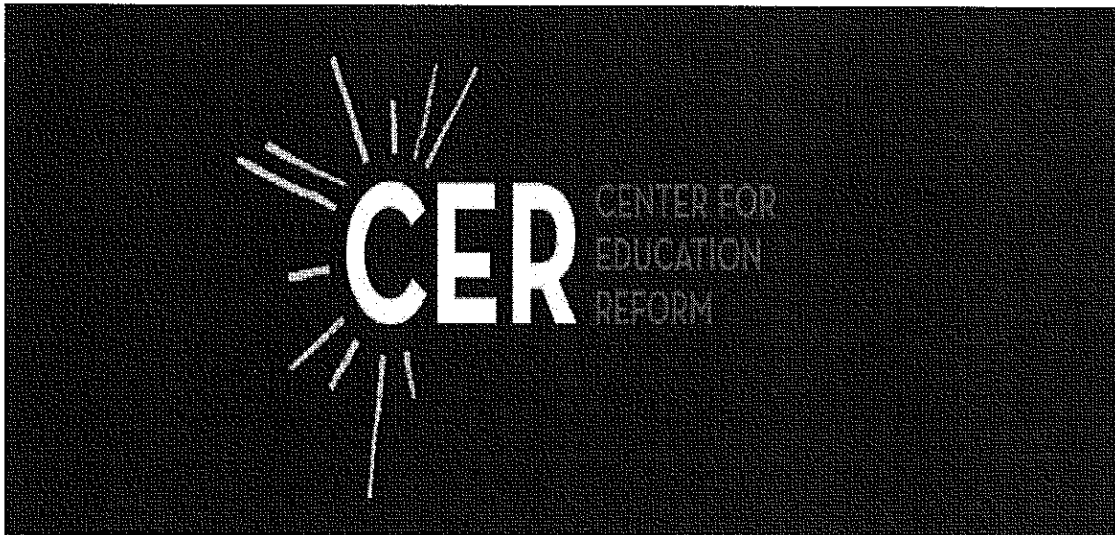
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COUNTDOWN TO CER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT... it may seem early, but October will be here before you know it, so make your plans now to join CER on October 25-26 in Miami for its Silver Anniversary Summit & Celebration *"The Road to Innovation for ONE America."* One of the features of the gathering will be our honoring of some of the pioneers of the education reform movement who will be on hand for the event, including Tommy Thompson. As Wisconsin's governor (from 1987-2001) Thompson was one of first high-profile champions of education reform pushing for the creation of the country's first parental school-choice program, which provided Milwaukee families with a voucher to send children to the private or public school of their

choice. He did other great things as governor, too (e.g. welfare reform), and went on to build a remarkable career of public service, including a stint as Secretary of Health and Human Services under George W. Bush, but he'll always be tops in our book for his commitment to, and success in, achieving substantive education reform.

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH... Last Sunday night NBC News aired a charter school story that argues charters are increasingly geared to support "white flight." If the claims weren't so outlandish and unfounded, it would be laughable. The producer, who was incredibly open to receiving information countering these allegations, based his report on an analysis performed by the Hechinger Report. In one of the documents CER supplied, we demonstrated Hechinger's bias against charter schools, as well as the folly of the argument. [Read more...](#)

A DOUBLE DOSE OF REALITY... This week Jeanne Allen interviewed [Erica Komisar](#), author of "Being There: Why Prioritizing Motherhood in the First Three Years Matters." Based on more than two decades of clinical work and breakthrough neurobiological research on caregiving, attachment and brain development, her book challenges established concepts (and myths) of infant resiliency, 'having it all' and even the definition of feminism. One thing this book is not about is quitting your job. "It's not about working vs. not working – it's really a book about more is more." Also on Reality Check, an attorney for Mark Janus from the [Liberty Justice Center](#) shares his thoughts on the likely outcome of the high court's pending decision.

Find the podcasts at edreform.com/realitycheck and on [National Review](#).

WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS... Just as the AFT and NEA are bracing for the ruling from SCOTUS in the Janus v. AFSCME case, [teachers in New York state have filed a class-action suit](#) claiming (correctly, we might add) that they are being illegally forced to cough up union dues even if they're not union members. This is in response to NY's new law, signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo

last April, mandating that all teachers pay a New York State United Teachers "agency fee" regardless of their membership status. Supporters say all teachers benefit from pay hikes and perks secured by the union and should subsidize those efforts. In a suit filed Thursday the two teachers who brought the case say (correctly, we might add) that they oppose "NYSUT's political advocacy and collective bargaining activities" and shouldn't have to fund them. Yep.

In Other News...

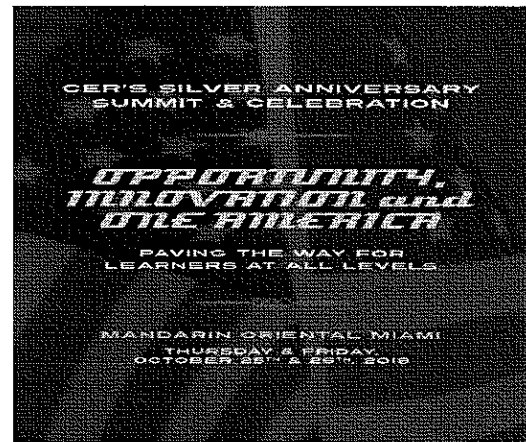
MORE THAN REASONABLE... The Reason Foundation has put out a great piece on school funding. Although titled "Five Recommendations to Solve LAUSD's Looming Fiscal Crisis" its applicable, in parts or in whole, to school funding crises around the country and is worth the read.

SUNSHINE STATE SUCCESS... Former Florida Senate Education Chairman, John Legg, recently summed up Florida's great, new K-12 scholarship program. "... [it] is conceptually reminiscent of the free tutoring programs developed by bipartisan education advocates under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. This scholarship is driven by the educational principle that children must learn to read so they can then read to learn." Notably the program doesn't try to simply thread more money into district elementary reading budgets but instead provides a reading scholarship, which gives parents the decision on how to spend it. And why is that a better approach, Legg was asked: "The parent is the most influential person in the child's life."

A PROGRESSIVE POINT OF VIEW... Also of note this week, a passionate op-ed on educational opportunity for all, titled "Progressive, affluent parents who send their kids to good= schools shouldn't deny others that right." An excerpt: "Simply put, I'm a progressive. So it troubles me deeply to hear self-styled progressives attack educational options that other parents choose for their children. Worse, these attacks on the educational choices that lower-income parents and parents of children with special needs make almost always

come from progressives of higher means. We have a recommendation for that: Check your privilege. I support educational choice for all. Educational options have existed for the wealthy for as long as anyone can remember. What's controversial is when we suggest that those same options should be open to everyone." Amen.

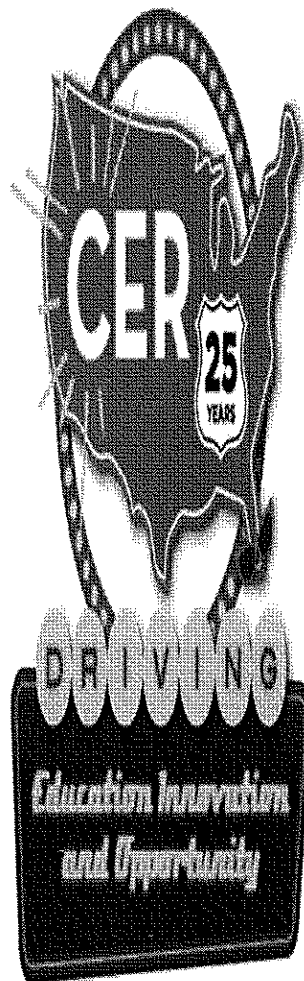
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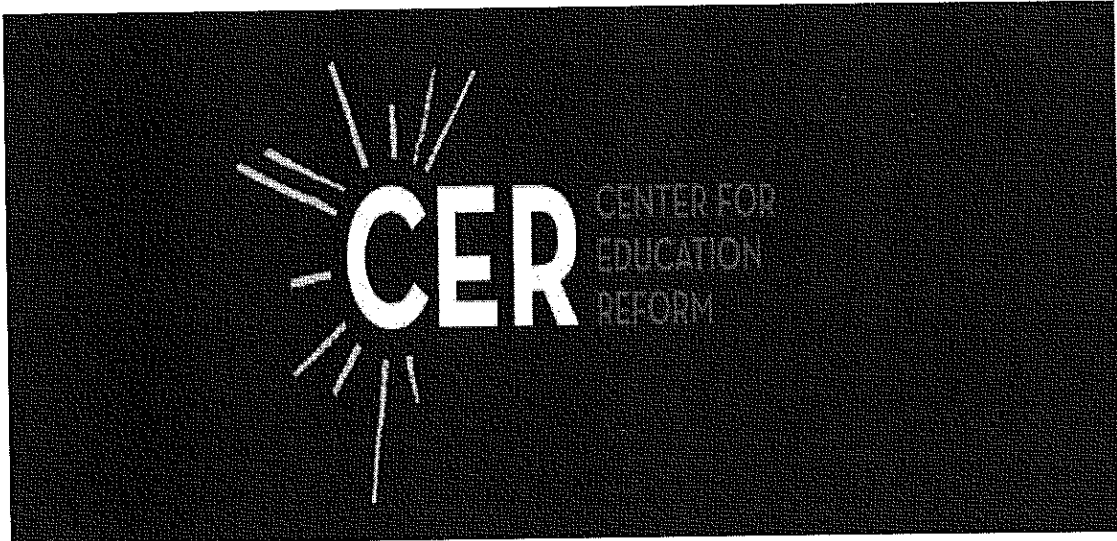
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AND THE HITS JUST KEEP ON COMIN'. As the unions anxiously await the Supreme Court's decision on *Janus*, the lawsuits keep piling up in lower courts around the country, this time in the U.S. District Court in Camden, NJ where a South Jersey teacher who doesn't want anything to do with the state's largest teachers' union has filed suit saying she shouldn't be forced to "subsidize" the New Jersey Education Association and its activities, arguing that her constitutional rights are being violated by forcing her to pay 'representation fees' as a condition of her employment as a public school teacher "even though Ms. Smith refused to join the teachers' union and does not wish to subsidize the union's activities."

Question.: **HOW DO YOU REINVIGORATE THE ECONOMY IN RURAL**

AMERICA? *Answer:* **EDUCATION.** When we improve schools, we improve communities. And while multiple efforts exist across the U.S., rural education has been left out of many modern reforms and innovations. CER's been working on this question for a while now, and have settled on one county on the coastal plain of North Carolina to develop our pilot rural education initiative. Earlier this month, we brought together some of our friends in philanthropy, business, policy and EdTech at UNC to talk about the blue sky of what is possible in Robeson County if we break down the silos between K12, higher ed and career and all work together to leverage our unique talents. The result? A shared vision and a broad plan for implementation.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF EDUCATION IN RURAL

AMERICA... "Schools closed. Forever. What happens to a rural town after it loses its only school?" is a somber NY Times feature on the plight of rural schools and points to the desperate need for solutions to this growing national problem.

OPPORTUNITY ABOUNDS. Florida Governor Rick Scott paid a recent visit to Puerto Rico (his seventh since Hurricane Maria) and told Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosselló the island has "an unbelievable opportunity to change the island for the better." At the top of Rosselló's opportunity agenda: education reform — adding charter schools, better leadership and a school voucher program. And with plans for a modernized energy grid and rebuilt infrastructure you can add innovations in education to the plan.

WHAT DO STUDENTS WANT? According to an annual survey by the Washington-D.C.-based College Savings Foundation the majority of high school students who will be entering college over the next three years would like to see more colleges promote education and skills training rather than only offering majors for future employment: 81 percent would like to see colleges offer skills instead of majors; 70 percent would prefer to go to that school; and

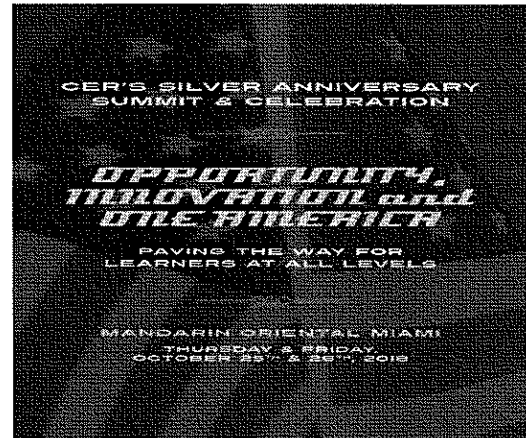
63 percent said their career plans were affecting their school choice. According to the foundation for the past four years, the number of students embracing skills-based education has been growing. This year, 36 percent have their sights set on attending a technical school; 28 percent are headed to community college; and 8 percent will attend a vocational school. "Looking at our survey from 2015 to 2018, the number of students planning on going to community college has increased 9 percent," D said the foundation's chair.

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN. An informative and well-reasoned argument in favor of the president's proposed merger of the Departments of Education and Labor by the founder and director Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, Anthony Carnevale.

"[When] the Education Department was created...two-thirds of jobs required no more than a high school education. Remarkably, 30 percent of good jobs were held by high school dropouts. Now, 55 percent of good jobs require at least a bachelor's degree... There was a time, perhaps, when these departments could stand apart. But no more. At their core, both share the same goal: to create fully functional adults. In a capitalist economy, that means you have to have a job. And in today's world, to get a good job, you need an education... With this combined department, we have an opportunity to realize that education and jobs are inextricably linked."

REALITY CHECK W/JEANNE ALLEN. Many passionate ed reformers and teachers in general come to the profession from other walks of life or different training but Beth Anderson but has been a teacher since 1991 (beginning her career as a Teach for America instructor teaching bilingual kindergartners in LA). Today, she is CEO of the successful and continually innovative Phoenix Charter Academy Network of schools that challenges students with rigorous academics and relentless support. Listen in!

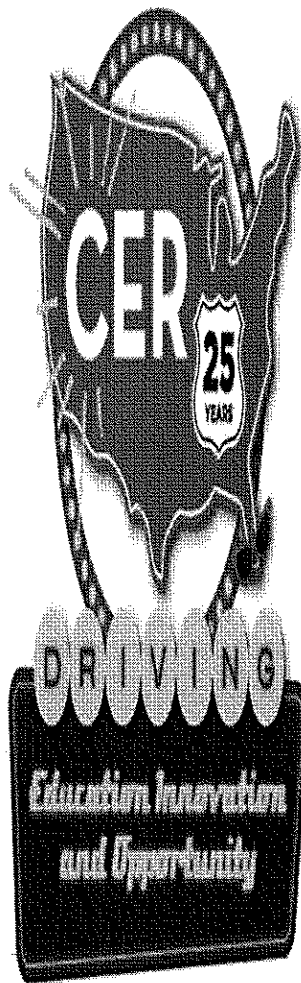
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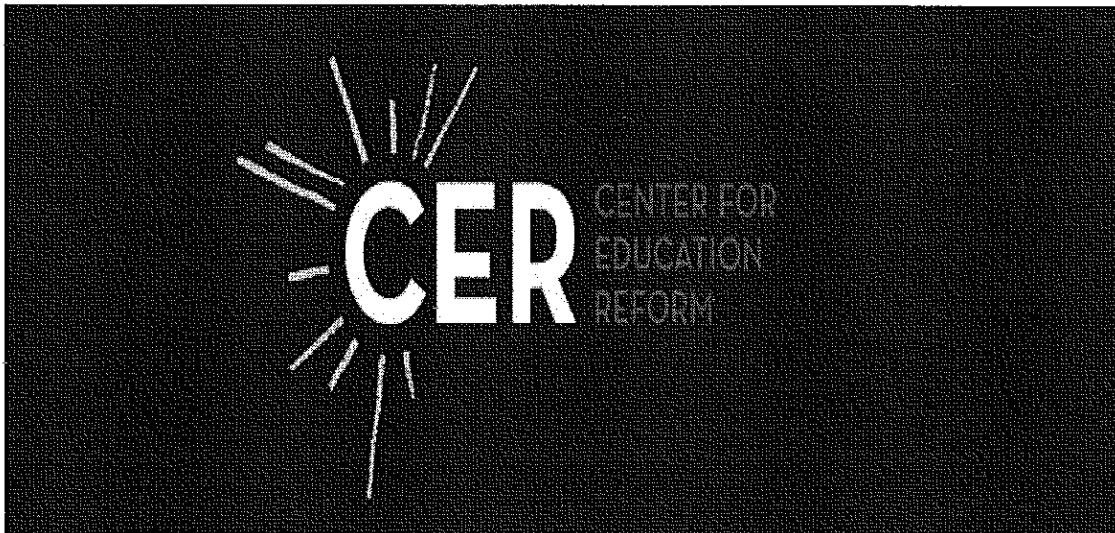
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2018

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U.S. Supreme Court Rules in favor of Mark Janus in *Janus v. AFSCME*

Statement by Jeanne Allen, Founder & CEO

It's a great day in Washington, DC! The high court's decision strikes a blow for the freedom guaranteed to individuals under the constitution. No citizen of the United States can be compelled to support speech that he or she does not believe in or endorse, and by upholding that constitutional protection, the court has affirmed a critical principle of freedom.

This is good news for the nation, for thousands of educators who have long been exploited by the teachers unions, and for families whose educational opportunities have been compromised by their political activity. When it comes to education, the most fundamental of all policies that shape our futures, no longer can the union compel people to support activities and positions regardless of principle.

In affirming the position of Mark Janus, the United States Supreme Court finally ends the decades-long assault on worker freedom. While unions, particularly the teachers' unions, have and will continue to decry the ruling, they would do well to look beyond the revenue-generating dollars-and-cents loss that it will entail and see the opportunity that it presents – the opportunity to secure support for their work based not on coercion, but on voluntary support from those who truly believe in the in the ideas, actions and pronouncements of any association to which they now may truly choose to belong.

Education in America is in the midst of a major transformation, which is struggling to realize its full potential in the face of limiting contractual and oppositional forces. From apathy to lack of knowledge to deliberate impediments created by unions, these obstacles have kept education from advancing into 21st century.

The unions now have a chance to join the movement, and embrace the cause of improving education for parents seeking new opportunities for their children, and for children in need of opportunities for innovative individualized learning options, or they get out of the way entirely. While hope springs eternal, we doubt, sadly, that wither will occur. Thankfully, however, teachers will now be able to exercise their own power in impacting the needs of children and families in the education process and policies supporting it.

Kudos to the Court, to Mark Janus, to Rebecca Friedrichs who began the journey before him, and to all who are engaged in the fight for liberty and justice.

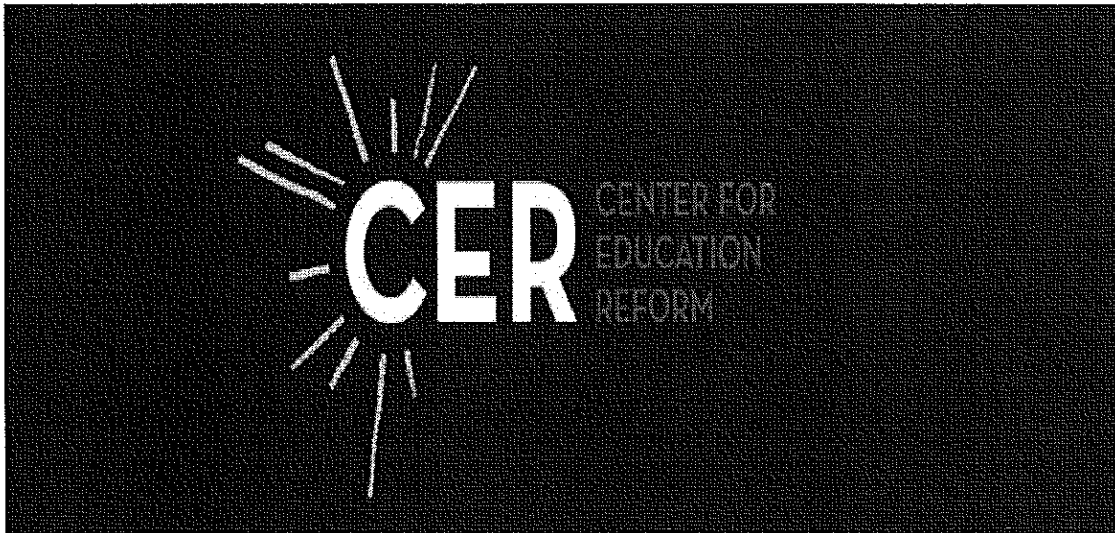
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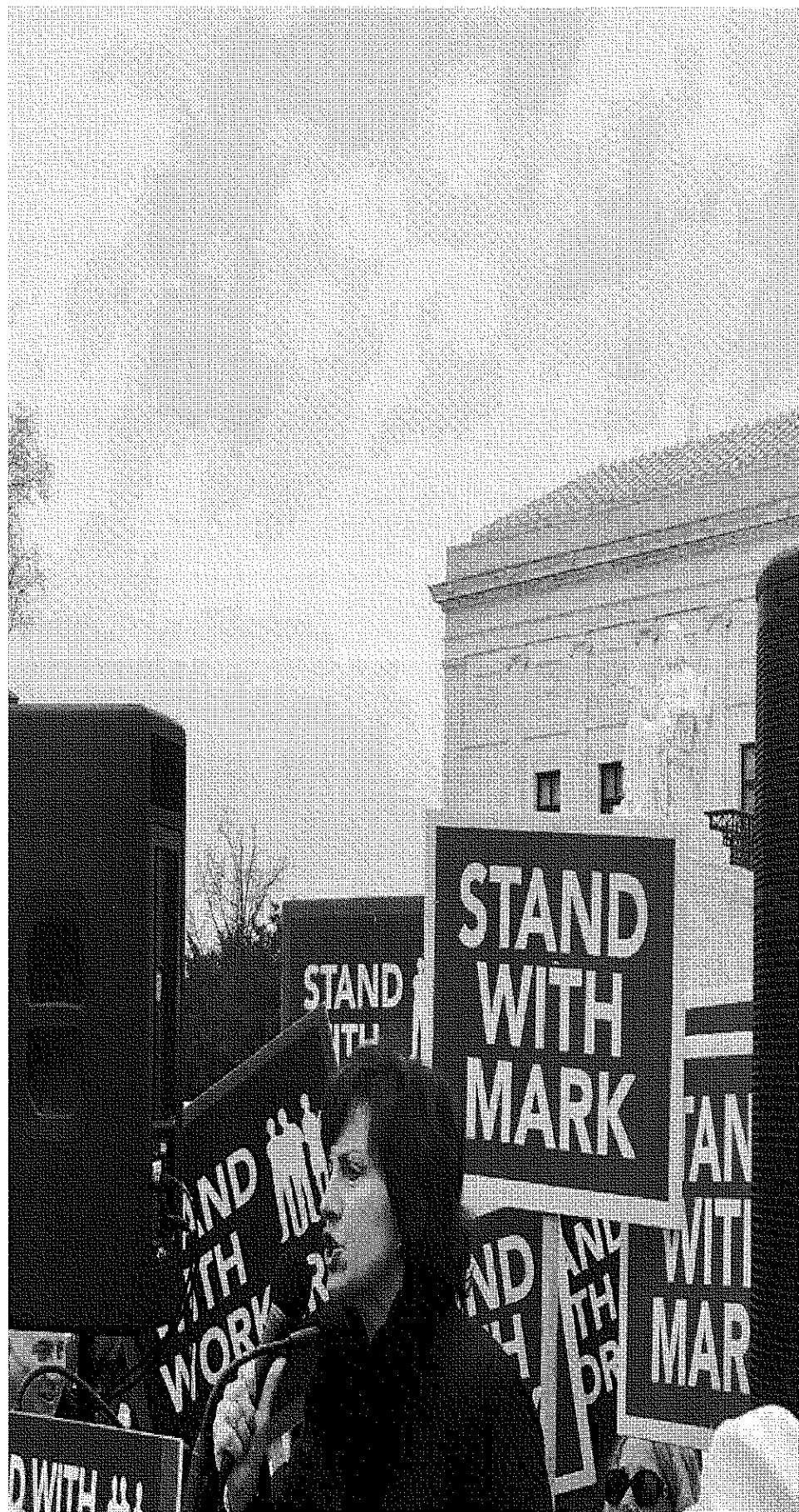
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ICYMI: In Public-Sector Union-Fees Case, SCOTUS Strikes a Blow for Freedom

by Jeanne Allen | [National Review](#) | June 27, 2018



Janus v. AFSCME is good news for the First Amendment.

The suggestion by union leaders and various pundits that the Supreme Court's decision on *Janus v. AFSCME* will somehow deny teachers a voice — and will “defund and destroy” the unions ¶ 4 is absurd.

The case addresses an individual's constitutional protection from coerced speech. It doesn't deny unions the right to organize, recruit, bargain, strike, or collect dues from willing members. What it does deny is the unions' right to force individuals who are opposed to their positions and policies to pay into union coffers.

As much as America's teachers' unions are labor organizations, they are equally or more so political organizations, lending huge support to political causes, campaigns, and candidates. [Continue reading...](#)

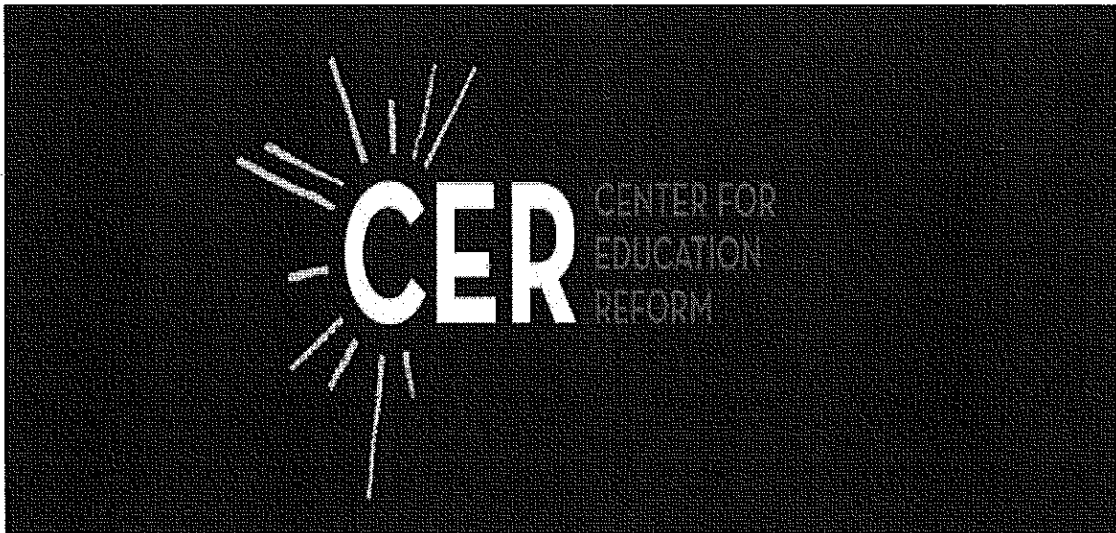
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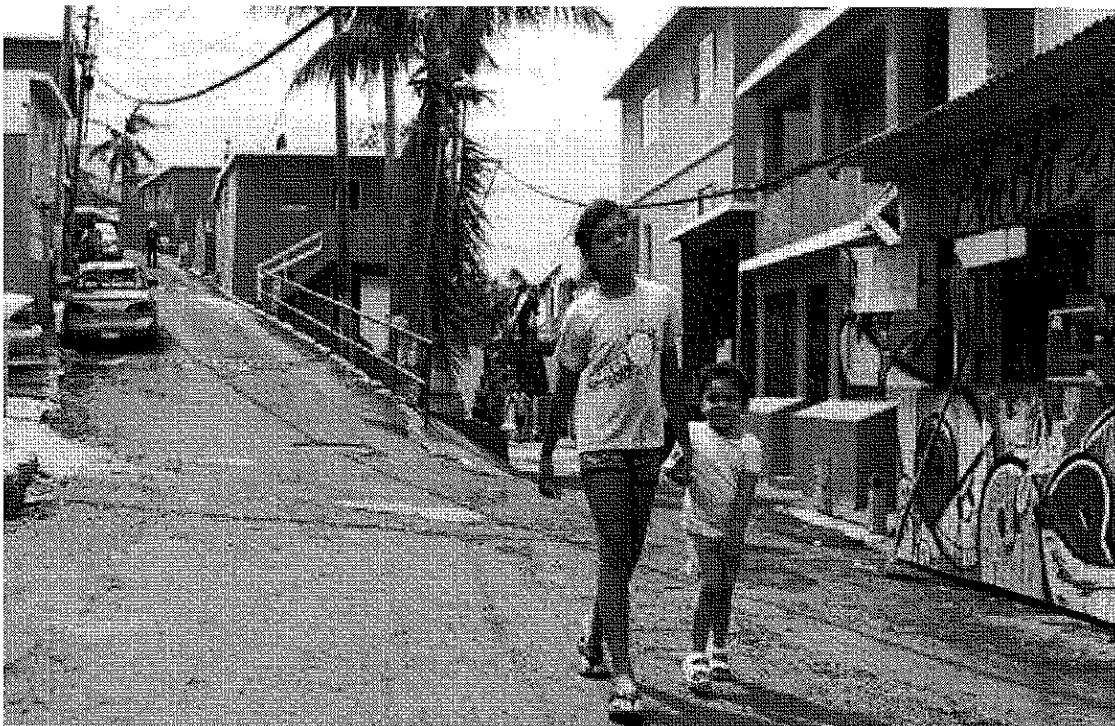
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A NEW HOPE FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS' FREEDOM? The President's nominee to fill the vacancy that Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy will create is Brett Kavanaugh, whose long history of rulings and opinions on education issues may allow for progress and real change for religious schools and school equity: *[Does A Justice Kavanaugh Mean That Blaine Amendments Are History?](#)*

A SETBACK IN PUERTO RICO. A frustrating turn of events in Puerto Rico where the hopes and plans to increase educational opportunities and innovations are being held up a judge's ruling that private school scholarships

violate Puerto Rico's Constitution and that only the University of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico's municipalities can operate "*alianza*" (i.e. charter) schools.

Sadly, this is another case of putting children last when it comes to meeting their educational needs and, with hope, will only be a temporary set-back in delivering Gov. Rosselló's hugely needed, and hugely promising reforms. The good news is that we've seen this movie before, and the flawed decisions of courts from Washington state to Florida are usually based on education powers in constitutions not legislative powers, which in most Constitutions take precedence. [Check out this review](#), for example, from former U.S. Solicitor General Paul Clement, about a similar issue claimed but not litigated in Kentucky. We'll keep you posted.



NEA: THE "NOT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION." Somehow the NEA thought it appropriate to dedicate nearly two-thirds of the resolutions at its annual conference last week to everything BUT education? [What are some of the NEA's priority issues?](#) Here's a sample. Ensuring that Banana Republic doesn't

advertise with the union. Creating a toolkit to press for moratoria on charter school authorizations by bodies other than locally elected school boards. Advocating for lower interest rates and affordable housing programs for educators. And planning at least one action to shut down an immigration detention center, a Customs and order Patrol office, or an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office (and recruiting at least 500 educators to participate in the action who are willing to be arrested and not bailed out of jail for a week!).

AFT ALSO OUT OF TOUCH. As the AFT gears up for its rollicking annual convention and demagoguery fest we thought we'd brief you on the issues they'd be debating this year...that is until we looked at the list of a whopping 91 resolutions from 13 committees that are more appropriate to a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly than they are to addressing the educational needs of America's children and families. To be fair, they do have an "Educational Issues Committee" but things go sideways fast when we get to the committees on Healthcare, Human Rights, International Relations, Labor and the Economy, Political Action ("Resolution No. 53 'Rev It Up:' Register, Educate, Vote!") and Organizing and Collective Bargaining. Suffice it to say they will be discussing a lot of things, most of which have little or nothing to do with educating children. If you are so inclined, you can read every word of every resolution [here](#).

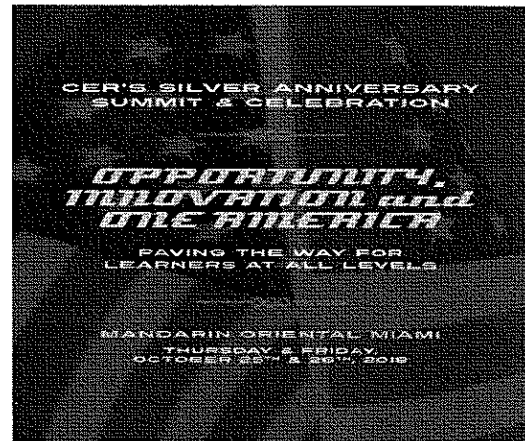
NOTE TO UNIONS: You're supposed to be looking for ways to improve your standing after Janus not get farther away from the mission upon which you were founded.

HEARING IT DIRECTLY FROM MARK JANUS. Along with many of our most respected colleagues, we've been glued to the Janus v. AFSCME litigation proceedings since the beginning. We've [covered](#), [interviewed](#) and reported on the subject. But nothing compares to hearing it from the horse's mouth. [Here's](#) Mark Janus explaining his "why" after the historic decision.

TO NBC: NOT TO SAY, 'WE TOLD YOU SO' BUT... The Grade, by Alexander Russo, offers up a great article over the irresponsibly story alleging charter schools are creating "white flight" from traditional public schools. The contention is absurd, and we said so, but the Grade goes even further. A very brief synopsis of its critique: *"...unfortunately, the [NBC/Hechinger] piece fails badly at its larger attempt, which is to assert that this kind of charter school is a significant problem nationally. Despite all efforts to make it seem otherwise, the data presented in the story do not support the claim that segregated white charters are a big problem."* Read the full article here.

COMPETITION. Pennsylvania's Bensalem school district hired a consultant to tell them why so many families were choosing charter schools over district schools. The consultant's explanation: with charter schools as an option for families, districts must compete for students, which means they have to improve in areas where they are lacking – be that in performance or programs or in working with parents. "Of course," the article concludes correctly, "competition is what the charter school law was supposed to produce — because competition drives excellence." = 2

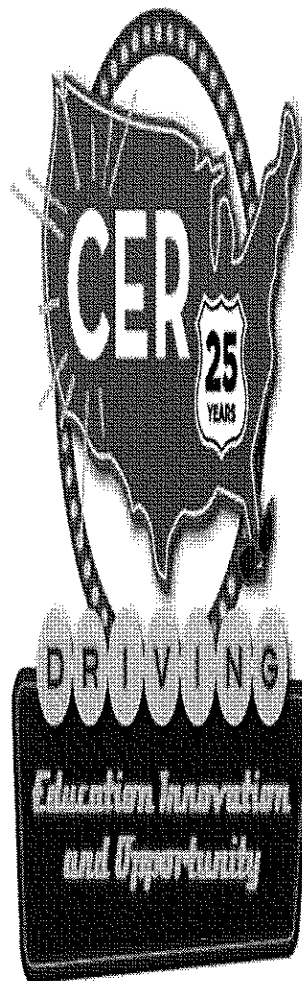
THE ROAD TO INNOVATION IS PAVED WITH SILVER... This week we are pleased to announce the addition of Arizona State University as a partner in CER's Silver Anniversary Summit. We're grateful for the pathbreaking leadership of ASU and it's visionary president Michael Crow in their myriad endeavors. Start your engines and make your way to Miami on October 26th! Registration opens this week!



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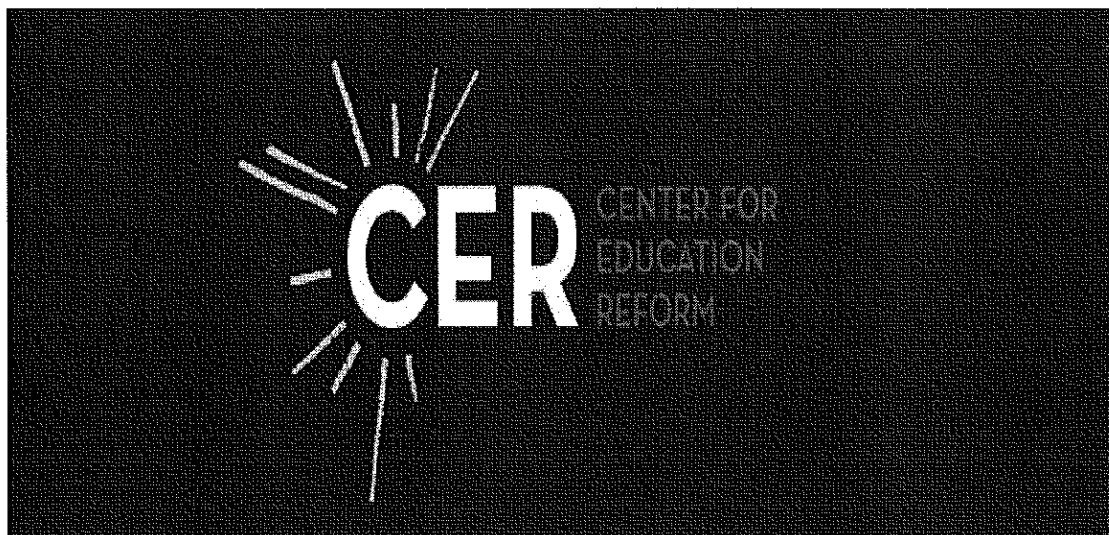
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POLITICS AS USUAL. As if on cue to lend credence to the wisdom of the Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME* decision (which frees individuals from being forced to fund unions they don't support) last week's AFT annual meeting more closely resembled the quadrennial national party conventions than a gathering of teachers devoted to education and learning. Not only was the AFT's laundry list of resolutions laced with criticism of the current administration, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and current Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders all showed up to rally the troops and lead the charge toward political victory in November and beyond!!! Also joining in the AFT's pep rally and cheerleading tryouts were noted labor bosses, Lee

Saunders (AFSCME), Lily Eskelsen-Garcia, (NEA), and Mary Kay Henry (SEIU). Notably absent – any talk of meaningful reform of schools and everyone whose ideas, opinions, or political leanings don't conform to the union leaders' views of America.

THE WRONG RESPONSE. Of course much of the AFT's focus was on the biggest issue of concern to parents and children across the country: the impact of Janus on the union! Leading the way in the torches-and-pitchforks rally was AFT president Randi Weingarten who was= on a tear orating, among other things, about how "They [the infamous and dangerous "they"] have attacked us and perverted and weaponized the First Amendment, the freedom of speech in a way that no one recognizes."

SCHOOLYARD SCUFFLE. There's never been any love lost between Nevada's competing teachers unions – Clark County Education Association (CCEA) and the new National Education Association of Southern Nevada (NEA-SN) – but now their relationship has devolved into a playground hair-pulling affair complete with name-calling and fit-throwing. The problem comes down to who's taking members away from whom and is best explained by an impartial observer who says it's all about money. "I hate to be so crass to say it that way, but if you lose 10,000 members that's money that's gone." Offers another observer: "The only word that comes to my mind is incompetency." Oh well. If nothing else, at least the unions' priorities are nicely aligned with their national counterparts.

A BIG CHANGE IN THE BIG EASY. After hurricane Katrina back in 2005 Louisiana abolished its old, failing, school system in favor of a system of charter schools. So how has it worked out? As *The New York Times* reports "...academic progress has been remarkable. Performance on every kind of standardized test has surged." A caution is in order, however. The Time's piece was sparked by the state returning schools to "local control" – to the Orleans Parish School Board, for example which has historically opposed giving any power to schools or autonomy to individuals – and threatens to be a step

toward a return to the structure, and mindset, that doomed New Orleans students to violent and chronically failing schools before Katrina.

NOW THERE'S A THOUGHT. A well-reasoned piece out of New Mexico where an op-ed – “Bureaucracy stifles innovation at NM schools” – points to the need for an education system that provides “innovative solutions that fit local needs? 6we should be asking, what does your local community need from its graduates and what experiences will prepare them for the future? Or, how can we give students real-life internship experiences that teach students the skills they need to be prepared in our ever-changing workforce?” Here, here!

THOSE DARN PARENTS. It won't come as a shock to learn that as enrollment in charter schools in North Carolina rises, and attendance in the state's traditional public schools falls – it's down, for the third straight year, to 81 percent and falling fast – the status quo sees a conspiracy afoot to “dismantle public schools.” But when you open the gates and people can leave = 2 and they do – it says something about the existing offerings. Advocates of traditional public school shouldn't complain but figure out how to keep students without calling parents undemocratic or accusing them of trying to dismantle the public schools simply because they their kids educated to their own needs.

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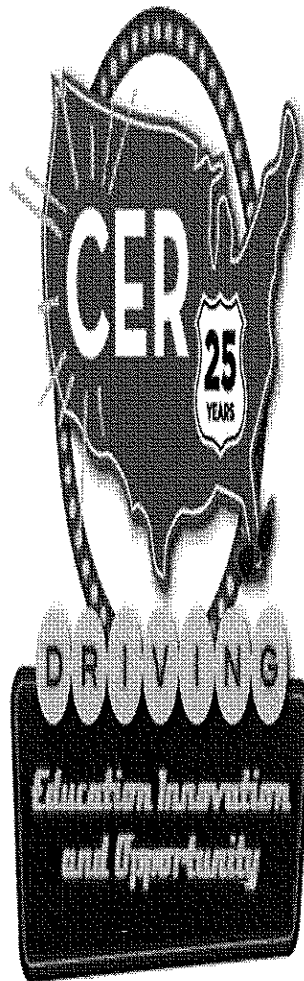
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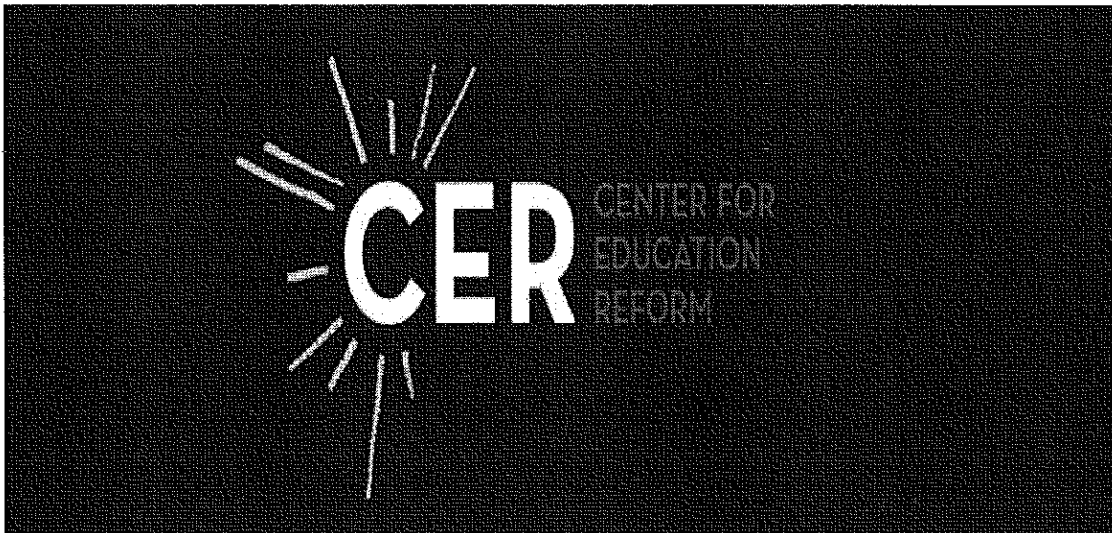
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A weekly report on education news and commentary you won't find anywhere else — from the nation's leading voice on education innovation and opportunity.

A PERSONALIZED FUTURE. An overview of the Summit Learning Program and four schools that have adopted the approach provides a glimpse into a future of education that could be closer than many think. An excerpt: =
Twenty percent of the school day is devoted to what Summit calls Personalized Learning Time, or what students more commonly call PLT. Using their laptops, students log into the Summit Learning Platform and access online playlists related to topics such as the structure of DNA and trigonometric ratios. 'PLT is my favorite,' said Ely Villagrana, a 9th-grader. Just as technology facilitates student learning, it also helps teachers connect with

students, said Nicholas Kim, who was the school principal from 2013-17. "We have so much clarity about what students know and can do," he said.



WHITTLE SCHOOL & STUDIOS. Speaking of the future, if you haven't been following the activities of Chris Whittle (education entrepreneur, reform pioneer, and, we're honored to say CER board member) over the last couple of years, you've missed a lot, namely, the formation of Whittle School & Studios – the world's first truly global school which will offer a reimagined PreK-12 education for the modern world to provide children with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed in a modern world. . (The first two campuses are slated to open in the fall of 2019 in Washington, D.C. and Shenzhen,

China). Also of note, you can nominate a student for the Founding Whittle Scholars program – a highly selective scholarship for exceptional, high-achieving students ☞ 0 offering scholarships that will cover 50%-100% of the cost of attending Whittle School & Studios! (A WS&S open house – featuring faculty, school and division heads, demonstrations of experiential learning methods, and more – is scheduled for September 30, so mark your calendar.) [Read here for more information.](#)

THE UNIONS... *Continued* It☞ 0s like a new reality TV drama. Every week a new episode! This week, the action moves to Utah, where the teachers' union, the Utah Education Association, has canceled its annual convention for 2018 citing years of declining participation (less than a quarter of its 18,000 members attended the event in 2017). Turns out that the state used to compensate teachers for participating in the conference; now, only a few districts do. The event also was once the only place where educators could fulfill continuing education requirements or get credits to keep a license up to date; for years, however, even better ways exist to do so online. So what other reasons do teachers have to attend the annual labor shindig? [Apparently, none.](#)

THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG. Anticipating steep membership and funding losses as a result of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Janus v. AFSCME* the education unions, in this case the American Federation of School Administrators, are going on the prowl for new blood. Their target: charter school leaders. [As EdWeek reports](#), "The largely non-unionized charter sector could present ample—albeit rocky—territory for expansion for unions." Rocky indeed. The likelihood of any of the education unions winning significant support from the charter sector is extremely low, especially given unions' long-time, on-going opposition to charters and ed reform in general. The last thing most charter school teachers and administrators want is to give up their freedom to support out-of-touch and out-of-step labor bosses.

SO WE'RE ALL IN AGREEMENT. In addressing an issue we've been harping on for years, last week the House passed – unanimously – and the President signed this week The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act that looks to close a skills gap by helping post-secondary students receive on-the-job training in fields short on skilled workers like manufacturing, health care and cybersecurity. However, what's now in law isn't nearly innovative and expansive as it could and should be. Indeed we wonder why CTE legislation isn't more closely tied to higher ed legislation, something we will be talking more about in the coming days, weeks and months as CER is dedicated to bringing the transformations in education it is known for in the K-12 sector to all facets of higher learning and workplace preparation as well. Schools are thrilled of course that the new CTE bill increases funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Program so more students can participate, and lawmakers are happy that it shifts the authority to local states and community colleges and high schools, something reinforced by Senator Lamar Alexander when his chamber passed the bill last week. But we must do more than send money to local programs – we must actually change the way we do business in educating and training students for their future in dramatic new ways. Anyway, we know most agree. We'll keep demanding it, too.

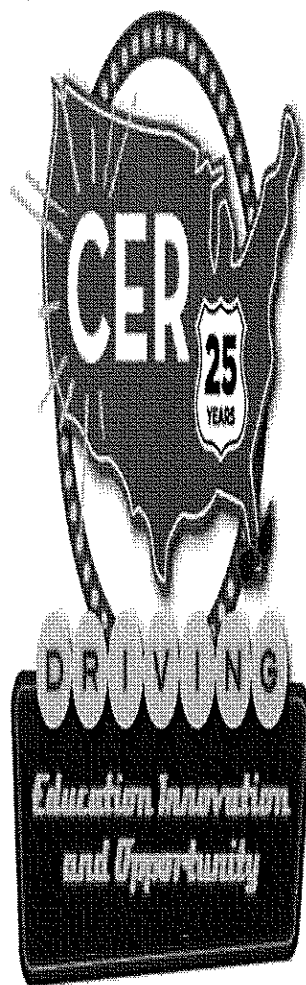
A STRONG EDITORIAL POSITION IN RI. The editorial board of the Providence Journal issued a strong statement this week: Rhode Island Needs More Charters, writing, in part: "The demand for charter schools far outweighs the availability. Last year, the state's charter schools received more than 15,000 applications for about 1,700 available seats... That is a stunning statement that traditional schools are not serving the needs of large numbers of students — and that the state's weak and timid educational reforms are not cutting it... Our society pays a steep price for each child who might have gained a first-rate education but does not. Education is the key to opportunity for all. Rhode Island's failure to do whatever it takes to help poor and minority children thrive is a tragedy that will have lasting implications.

AGAIN WITH THE MAYOR. NYC's Success Academy CEO Eva Moskowitz wants to put middle school students in the space formerly occupied by her elementary school, which she operated until June, but because she didn't ask to make the change last February, she's getting tossed from the space. An appeal to Mayor de Blasio, Moskowitz wrote: "Throughout your political career, you have promised New Yorkers protection from landlords who are egregiously unfair. Yet without urgent action, it will be your own administration that evicts 70 diverse children, plus their teachers and staff, from a nearly-empty school building without cause." This is just the latest battle in Moskowitz's on-going war with de Blasio to free-up space for charters in NYC and it's time the mayor ends his opposition. (Listen to a conversation with Eva Moskowitz from earlier this year on Reality Check with Jeanne Allen, Episode 18)

REALITY CHECK WITH JEANNE ALLEN, EPISODE 31. Listen in on Jeanne's conversation with Mike McShane, Director of National Research for EdChoice in Indianapolis, as they discuss educational options and the affects the newest Supreme Court Justice nominee might have on opportunities.

Don't forget! Meet us in Miami Oct. 25-26 for our Silver Anniversary Summit + Celebration. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! More info at edreform.com.

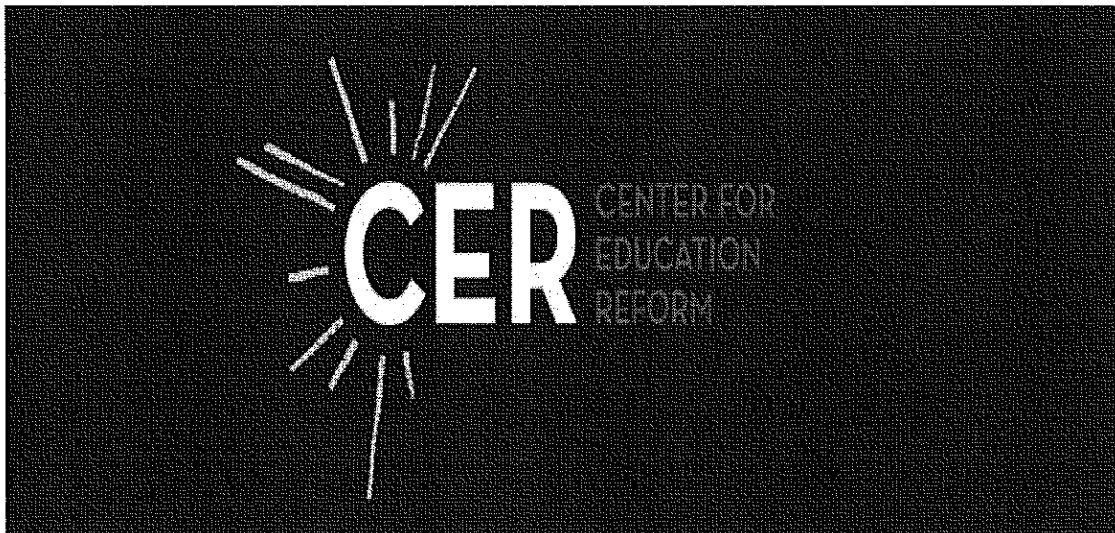
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BACK TO SCHOOL WITH TEACHER STRIKES. The teachers union in Puerto Rico is gearing up for a strike next week. Among their list of demands: no to educational opportunity that would bring desperately needed educational options to families on the island. This strike is yet another indication of why the *Janus v. AFSCME* case was necessary. Unions continue to do what they want despite what other people want. With Puerto Rico's latest test scores showing less than 35% of students are proficient in math and only 10% of students in grades 7, 8 and 11 passing standardized tests last year, there is a reason why families are choosing to leave the island in search of better opportunities for their children. Unions' actions in PR only underscore the

importance of the recently-won freedoms for workers in the Supreme Court's *Janus* decision. Organized labor could focus on protecting those freedoms, or ensuring that all of the students in Puerto Rico have a qualified educator in front of them who wants to teach in the classroom, instead of walking out on the children who need them most...

MEANWHILE, IN LOS ANGELES. Unions in the nation's second largest school district are also reportedly thinking about striking. Let's be clear – it doesn't matter the time nor place nor school district a teacher strike occurs, the group that suffers the most are the students. NAEP scores continue to show little to no improvement for students. Only 37 percent of our nation's 4th graders are reading proficiently, yet teachers are opting to be OUT of the classroom. In which universe does this make sense?

BUT WHAT DO PARENTS WANT? According to a survey by Democrats for Education Reform, they want meaningful progress that delivers options that are better for their children –reaffirming the ever-growing consensus in most polls by parents and families that educational options of any kind are welcome and needed changes in their communities and lives. These "Education Progressives" as DFER is calling them, are into expanding public school choice and rewarding quality teachers. They seem to understand that funding alone is not the answer – and indicate the continued uptick in the public= 2s support for choice. Don't believe us? Read for yourself...

NEW EDUCATION FINANCING TOOLS – LET'S TALK ABOUT IT. There's one thing that's clear – policies that promote opportunities for innovation in education open up endless possibilities to individualize education to fit the needs of the student. ExcelinEd has developed three new resources aimed at helping policymakers understand performance funding better including a framework of the funding model, a tool that models performance funding for a state, and an issue brief that describes early findings from using the tool.

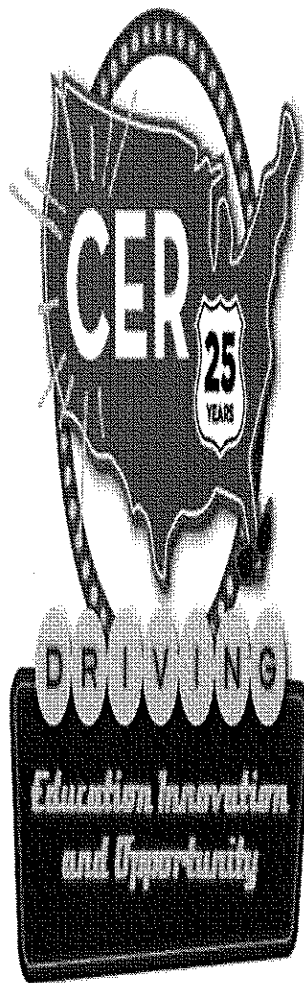
NEW SCHOOLS FOR CRISTO REY NETWORK. Congratulations to the Cristo Rey Network on the opening of three schools in Oakland, CA and Fort Worth, Texas. Cristo Rey Oklahoma City Catholic High School is their first school located on a university campus at Oklahoma State University. Check out their amazing statistics on their winning education model.

REALITY CHECK WITH JEANNE ALLEN HITS THE ROAD!

#SUMMERTIMewithCER. It's summer and many of us are hitting the road for vacation at the beach or some other place for rest and relaxation. What's better than having a daily dose of beach-worthy podcasts selected for your listening pleasure? Follow us at @edreform as we release a podcast a day just for you! Don't want to wait? No problem! You can find a list of all of our podcasts on our website.

Don't forget! Meet us in Miami Oct. 25-26 for our Silver Anniversary Summit + Celebration. More info + registration at edreform.com.

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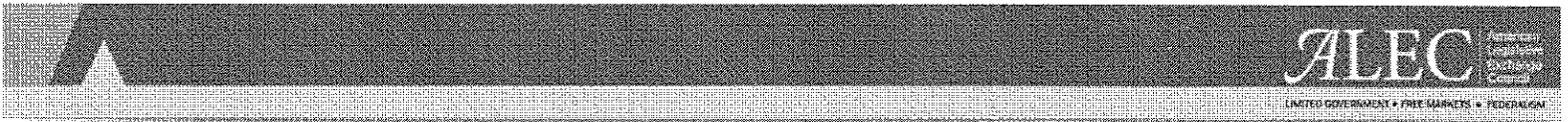


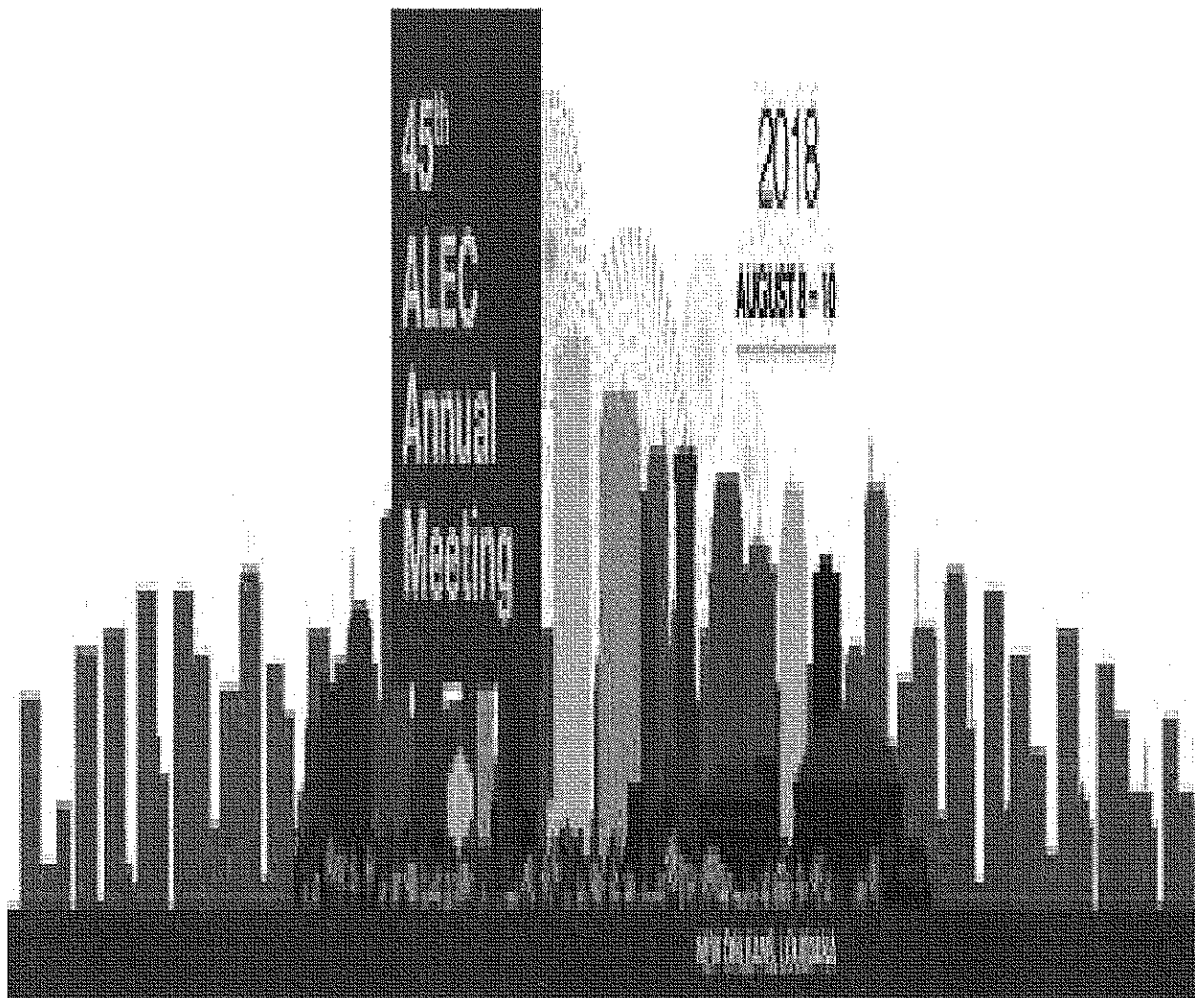
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Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 12:01 PM
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Subject: 45th ALEC Annual Meeting Week in Review

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Annual Meeting Week In Review - August 16, 2018



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Whether you could join ALEC in New Orleans, or missed out on the action, there's plenty of interesting and educational programming coming from this landmark conference. Here's a selection of some of the highlights of the 45th ALEC Annual Meeting.

For a quick look at some of the more interesting moments of the week, check out these slideshows



[View Slideshow](#)



[View Slideshow](#)

Cabinet Speakers



Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Secretary of Transportation

[View Speech](#)



Alex Azar
= A U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services

[View Speech \(7:43\)](#)

Featured Interviews

Featured Interview

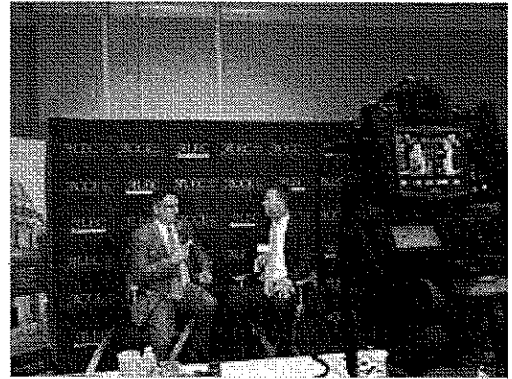


Mark Janus and Vinnie Vernuccio on Worker Freedom

Vinnie Vernuccio of the Mackinac Center talks to Worker Freedom standard-bearer Mark Janus to talk about his experiences and the road ahead.

[View Video](#)

Featured Interview



Louisiana Treasurer John Schroder on State Budgets

Louisiana State Treasurer John Schroder stopped by to speak with ALEC Chief Economist Jonathan Williams about Tax Policy and State Budgets.

[View Video](#)

Featured Interview



= A Featured Interview



Local Right to Work in New Mexico

Sandoval County Commissioner Jay Block discusses the effectiveness of local right to work policies in New Mexico, and how his constituents benefit from being open for business.

[View Video](#)

Brooke Rollins of the White House talks Re-Entry Reform

= 9Criminal Justice Director Ronnie Lampard had the opportunity to catch up with Brooke Rollins of the White House Office of American Innovation to discuss how the administration is handling criminal justice issues.

[View Video](#)

Featured Interview



Medical Freedom in Texas

Texas Lawmakers Tan Parker and Paul Bettencourt join Tracy Thompson and Jennifer Ziegler to talk about their adult stem cell research model, medical freedom, and their success in Texas.

[View Video](#)

= A

Featured Interview



Criminal Justice with MD Sen. Michael Hough

Maryland Senator Michael Hough joins ALEC Criminal Justice Director Ronnie Lampard to cover some of the issues facing the country in the criminal justice field.

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Want to see more?



All speeches and additional content from the 45th ALEC Annual Meeting are available at the ALEC Facebook page.

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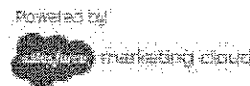
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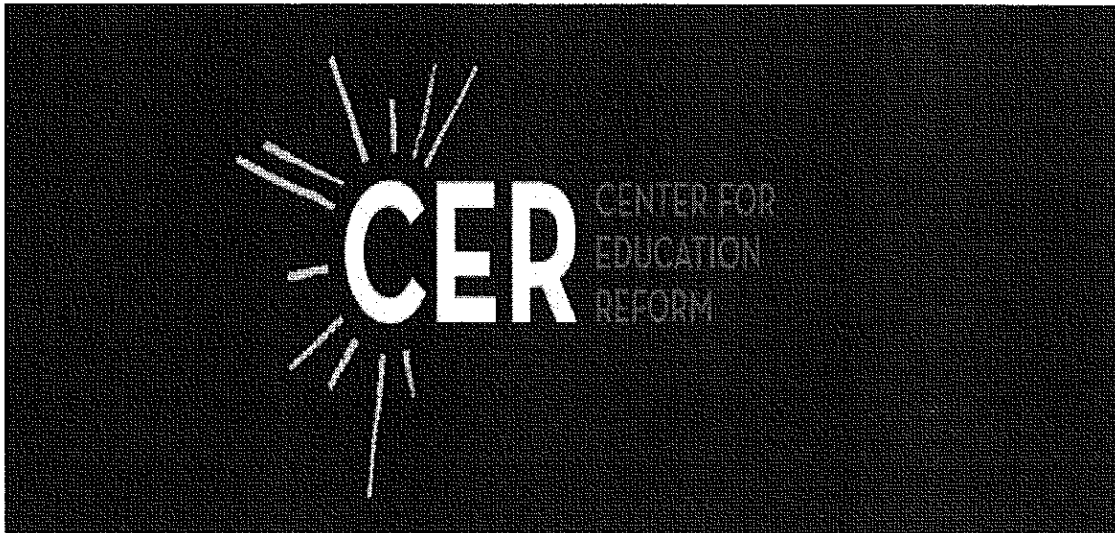
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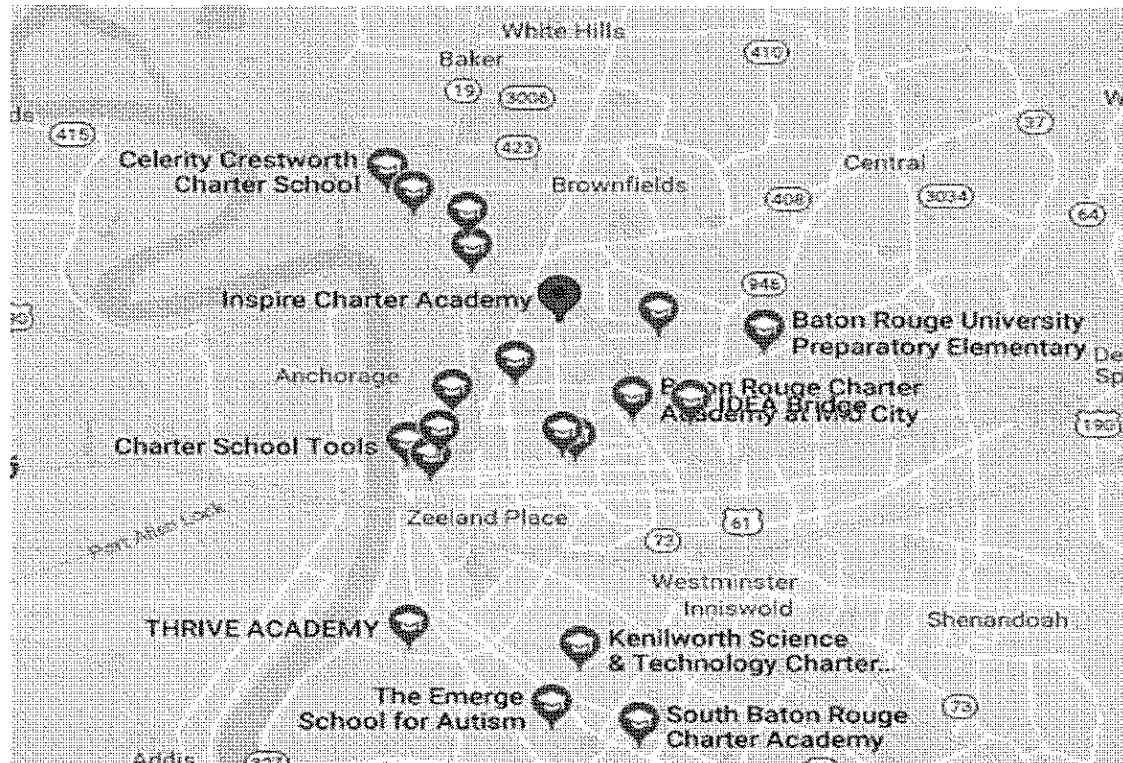
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BATON ROUGE IS HOT. Yep, you read that right. Dozens of schools, including the city's very first, Children's Charter School, took kids back to school this year, and the opportunities in this community that was once close to the bottom of all Louisiana are not promising and innovative. Thanks to the variety of local and national providers, students have lots of variety. There's GEO Prep Academy Greater Baton Rouge, INSPIRE, an NHA School which is a community favorite; Democracy Prep and BASIS is the new kid on the block with a 40,000 square foot state of the art building that promises rigor and world-class programming. These schools are part of the new Innovation Zone created in Baton Rouge. It's a hot city in lots of ways, thanks in large part to

the advent of the charter idea. Let's hope they continue to grow and thrive (and that those pesky regulators give them a chance to succeed!)

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SURVEY SAYS! Another poll, another body of evidence that parents and educators support more opportunities to tailor schools to the needs of kids they support or serve. This time around it's EdNext, whose latest poll shows increased support for educational choice but is it anything new? Must we continue to prove the obvious - that when parents and kids have more relevant, rigorous and diverse opportunities they will pick a school other than that to which they are assigned? Just look at Baton Rouge above, or Washington, DC, NYC, or any town large or small where innovation has been introduced. In a week the annual Phi Delta Kappa poll will be out again, and they will have something else to say. Then the press and the pundits will scurry to make pronouncements about what it all means. So, bring on the surveys and polls but remember what really matters is what's happening back

to school all over the US. If it works, let's duplicate it. If it doesn't, let's move on. That's what parents think and do when given a chance.

ANOTHER INTERESTING TIDBIT. Respondents prefer the DeVos era Ed Department over Obama's. To read about this and more go to [EdNext](#).

GLOBAL INNOVATION. A great conversation about global ed tech is never far away. CER leadership had the pleasure of being in the company of [VIPKID](#) at their Dallas regional conference at the George W. Bush Presidential Library. VIP Kid seeks to link the world through education by providing an international learning experience. They do so by giving US teachers an opportunity to help educate students in China by teaching them English...all online! Needless to say, this amazing opportunity for global cooperation shows what's possible with the parameters of educational options are endless. Former First Lady of the United States Mrs. Laura Bush was there to give her support to this global initiative. "Education gives us power," she reminded us.

A REAL 45 RECORD. Congratulations to the American Legislative Exchange Council or as we know them - [ALEC](#), celebrating 45 years in ensuring that policymakers have cutting edge information across all issues, including education. As we traveled to New Orleans to salute this organization, their impact on society was evident. Not only did Mark Janus, the plaintiff in the *Janus v. AFSCME* case join them to discuss his case, but over the years, ALEC has been able to boast that their members who started as legislators often became governors and members of Congress. People like Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, Oklahoma's Mary Fallon and Senator Tim Scott (South Carolina) to name just three, and all who've been staunch advocates for education reform, no matter what the odds or liabilities might be. Kudos to ALEC for leading the way!

VOTE FOR US! SXSW – We're going to SXSW EDU in March 2019 and need your help to make sure our panel is featured! To participate in the voting process, visit panelpicker.sxsw.com/vote and **login or create an**

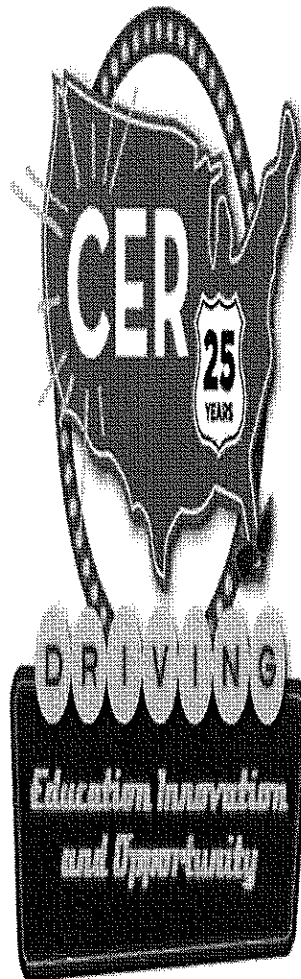
account. For more information about the voting process visit the [SXSW PanelPicker page](#). The **final deadline** for getting in your votes is **August 30 at 11:59pm PT**. We appreciate your support!



NEW HOPE FOR PUERTO RICO FAMILIES. Read how “there is no end to what can be done if people are willing to look beyond their petty differences.” Jeanne Allen’s latest in the Washington Examiner, [‘Educational opportunity comes to Puerto Rico’](#) tells why new opportunities in Puerto Rico are a good thing – and just a start.

ARE YOU ON THE ROAD TO INNOVATION? Route 66 may not end in Miami, but we are following Innovation's proverbial big super highway to Miami, FL on October 26th to carve a new pathway for education transformation, and a road to the future for all. *Just 66 days are left* – book your hotel and buy your ticket today! More information at edreform.com.

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